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A TRANSLATION
OF THE
EPISTLES
OR
CLEMENT OF ROME, POLYCARP,
AND IGNATIUS;
AND OF THE
APOLOGIES
OR
JUSTIN MARTYR AND TERTULLIAN:
WITH
AN INTRODUCTION

AND BRIEF NOTES
ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY OF THE
FIRST TWO CENTURIES.



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INTRODUCTION.

IN the history of the Christian Church, there are few periods of greater interest and importance than that which succeeded the death of the Apostles. As long as any of those holy men survived, who had personally received instruction from our Lord, they connected the Church on earth with its spiritual head. The miraculous powers with which the Apostles were endowed, and the undisputed authority with which their high office invested them, placed them in a position, which none of their successors could ever occupy. In cases of difficulty and doubt, an appeal to their more than human wisdom was the last resource: in times of peril, their example and their prayers strengthened the wavering, and confirmed the faithful: and at all periods they were justly regarded as the pillars, on which the Christian Church securely rested.

But when the Apostles were removed from the scene of their earthly labours, the condition of the

Church was changed. The efforts of its enemies were exerted with greater energy to suppress Christianity, as the numbers of those who professed the faith increased; while the apparent means of defence were materially impaired. Our attention is therefore roused to enquire what men they were, who, on this trying occasion, stood forth in defence of Christianity; with what weapons they combated their enemies; with what zeal they laid down their lives for the sake of the Gospel.

These early ages of the Church claim our attention for another reason. In contemplating the history of that period, we view Christianity, as a system of ecclesiastical polity, in its nascent state. It was then that the Canon of Scripture was formed; that Church government took a consistent form. The oral teaching of the Apostles and their immediate successors was still vividly impressed upon the minds of those who had heard them: and many passages of Scripture, which to us appear ambiguous, might by such means be then clearly understood.

Hence the conclusions, which the primitive Christian Church formed, respecting questions, which in after ages have been fruitful subjects of controversy, are entitled to the highest regard:

not, indeed, as infallible; but as representing the doctrines maintained by sincere and earnest enquirers after the truth, by men who were best able to form a sound determination, before their judgment was warped by prejudice or modified by system.

The writings of the early Christian Fathers will therefore be carefully consulted by all who would trace the Scriptures up to the period in which they were written, and learn the doctrines which were taught as essential, in the times nearest to the Apostolic age.

These early ages of the Church possess also a charm peculiar to themselves. The records of ecclesiastical history in subsequent years too often display a melancholy picture. The turbulent passions of the worldly minded, the fiery zeal of the intemperate, the arts of the designing, the follies of the weak, all present themselves in dazzling colours and in prominent positions: while it requires a practised eye and a patient investigation to discover the milder and retiring forms of unobtrusive Christian piety. The earlier Christians were not, as individuals, free from the infirmities and sins of human nature. But the primitive Christian Church did certainly stand forth in a

purity and simplicity which it has never since enjoyed. And the contemplation of the age in which this goodly spectacle was presented to the world, has ever been a delightful employment to minds endowed with a kindred feeling.

Of late years a considerable impulse has been given, among ourselves, to the study of the early Christian writers. The labours of the learned Bishop of Lincoln, in elucidating the works of Justin Martyr and Tertullian, and those of Dr. Burton, are specimens of the valuable matter which is yet to be extracted from the stores of Christian antiquity.

The present work lays claim to no such pretensions. Its object is to put the English reader in possession of some of the genuine remains of Christian writers of the first and second centuries, and to furnish occasional information upon such points as seem to require explanation. For this purpose it appeared more advisable to give the whole of such pieces as should be selected, than to select certain parts only. Extracts must always fail to give a faithful representation of the whole manner of reasoning and train of thought which characterized the first advocates of Christianity ; and may unintentionally give erroneous notions of their

opinions. It is well known that detached passages are quoted from these writings, in favour of very different notions. To judge therefore of the real sentiments of the writers, the general tendency of their argument is to be regarded, more than the mere verbal expression of particular parts. If we would know how these fathers of the Church thought and wrote, we are not at liberty to omit what may appear to us superfluous and fanciful in illustration, or diffuse and inconclusive in reasoning; or simply uninteresting, because it refers to errors which have long since passed away. The very manner of treating a subject is an indication of the habits of thought and of the moral condition of the age in which it was discussed. A more striking and graphic representation is often given of the state of society, and of the condition of the Christian world in general, by an application of a passage of Scripture, by a slight allusion to an objection against the religion of the Gospel, by a casual reference to some difficulty which its professors encountered, or by some elaborate refutation of an absurd calumny, than we should have received from a detailed description of the circumstances.

Besides, those very parts of the writings of the early Fathers, which seem least valuable both for

style and matter, have this incidental advantage, that they set in a clear point of view the immeasurable superiority of the Scriptures of the New Testament. The inspired books were written principally by men who had not the same advantages of education and literary training, as some of the Ecclesiastical writers enjoyed: yet they are totally free from the blemishes which disfigure the most elaborate productions of later ages of the Church.

Had not the pens of the Evangelists and Apostles been guided by a wisdom superior to any which those writers possessed by ordinary means, they never could have produced a work, which, even as a specimen of plain yet majestic narration, and of consistent, sober, rational discussion of the most abstruse questions, is entirely unrivalled. We should have found—as we do find in the writings even of those who had been thoroughly instructed in scriptural truth, and had deeply imbibed the spirit of Christianity—some error mixed with truth; some inconclusive reasoning; some vague declamation; some incautious overstatement of doctrine or fact; some merely mystical application of the Scriptures of the Old Testament; some exaggerated sentiment.

In uninspired writers we should have detected the prejudices of their education and of the age in which they lived. We should have found some extravagant eulogies of martyrdom; some fanciful notions respecting spiritual beings; some captious and scrupulous objection to practices in themselves indifferent. And, in their public defences of the faith before their adversaries, we should have perceived them, not only speaking boldly, as they ought to speak, but sometimes displaying a subtlety too nearly allied to the craftiness of the disputer of this world; and on other occasions indulging in sarcasm or invective against the various errors of heathen worship.

In the Scriptures of the New Testament, we find none of these faults: they are uniformly dignified, simple, reasonable. But a very limited acquaintance with the writings of those who endeavoured to follow their steps will shew that, if the Apostles and Evangelists were preserved from such extravagance and error, they owed it to a wisdom which was not of this world.

The works, which have been chosen for the present purpose, are the Epistle of Clement of Rome to the Corinthians; that of Polycarp; the genuine Epistles of Ignatius, with the accounts

of the Martyrdom of Ignatius and Polycarp: the first Apology of Justin Martyr; and the Apology of Tertullian.

These Epistles, and the short histories of the Martyrdoms, have been long known to the English reader, in Archbishop Wake's very valuable translation. It may appear presumptuous to have changed, in any degree, language which is at once so faithful and so scriptural as that which he has employed. And no alteration has been made, except after due deliberation. In Archbishop Wake's translation, however, the quotations from the Scriptures are given in the words of the authorised English Version. Now the original quotations from the Old Testament are often taken from the Septuagint or some other Version, so as to differ considerably from the Hebrew text, and consequently from the English Version: and in other instances, references are made to the Old and New Testaments in such a manner as to express the general sense of passages, rather than the words. As the intention of this work is to give as accurate a representation of these writings of the Fathers as the difference of idiom will admit, it seemed advisable to translate these quotations also as faithfully as possible, even in the instances

in which they deviate from the literal sense of the original Scriptures. It is not always easy to determine how closely a writer intended to quote a passage; and in many cases, such references may be regarded as a kind of comment upon the text to which allusion is made.

EPISTLE OF CLEMENT.

IT is a happy circumstance, that of the very few remains^a of the writings of the first Century, except the books of the New Testament, we should possess the truly Apostolical Epistle of Clement of Rome.

Clement is believed, upon the general testimony of Ecclesiastical historians^b, to have been the same whom St. Paul mentions among “his fellow labourers, whose names are written in the book of life.” Of his early years little is certainly known. It is believed, however, that he was born of a noble family at Rome, and sent to Athens for the purpose of education: that his conversion to Christianity arose from unsuccessful

^a It is perhaps the *only* remaining writing of the first century. The Epistle, ascribed to Barnabas, and the Shepherd of Hermas, existed in the second century: but probably were written after the Apostolic age.

^b Euseb. H. E. iii. 12.

^c Phil. iv. 3.

enquiries into which he had been led respecting the immortality of the soul; that he was instructed and baptized by St. Peter, and for some time continued to be his disciple.

That Clement was Bishop of Rome is a fact which is not disputed: but the time of his accession to that See is variously computed. Irenæus⁴ and Eusebius mention Clement to have been the third in succession from the Apostles: and Eusebius⁵ expressly states the twelfth year of Domitian's reign, A.D. 92, as the year in which Clement succeeded Anencletus. Tertullian⁶ says that he was ordained Bishop by St. Peter; whence it has been supposed that Linus was ordained Bishop of the Gentile Church of Rome by St. Paul, and Clement, Bishop of the Church of Jewish converts by St. Peter; that Linus was succeeded by Anencletus or Anacletus, and at his death, about A.D. 91. the two churches were united, and the Episcopacy of Clement over them both began. This is by many considered the most probable way of reconciling the difficulties which exist in

⁴ Irenæus Hæres. iii. 3. Euseb. H. E. v. 6.

⁵ Eusebius H. E. iii. 13—15. See Lardner, Credibility, Part II. c. 2.

⁶ Tertullian De Prescriptione Hæreticorum, c. 32.

determining the succession of the first Bishops of Rome^s; and was the opinion of Cave, when he wrote the Life of Clement^t. But at a subsequent period^u, he adopted the conclusion of Dodwell^v, that Linus and Anencletus lived as Bishops of Rome but a very short time, and that Clement succeeded them about A.D. 64 or 65, and continued to the year 81. Bishop Pearson^l concludes that Clement was Bishop of Rome from A.D. 69 to 83.

The date of the Epistle of Clement to the Corinthians is involved in equal uncertainty. Archbishop Wake^w supposes it to have been written soon after the termination of the persecution under Nero, between the years 64 and 70. Lardner^x refers it to the year 96. There are but few internal marks of time in the Epistle itself, and none which can be regarded as decisive. It is plain that it was written at the close of some persecution; for, at the beginning of it, the Church of Rome refers to "the sudden and repeated dangers

^s See note (a) on c. 54. p. 53.

^t Cave's Lives of the Fathers.

^l Historia Literaria, 65.

^v Dodwell, *Disputatio Singularis de Roman. Pontif. Successa.*

¹ *Disputatio de Successione primâ Romanorum Pontificum.*

^m See also Dodwell Addit. ad Pearson. Dissert. ii. c. 24. Cave Hist. Literar. 65.

ⁿ Credibility, Part II. c. 2.

and calamities which had befallen them." Persecution however, for the sake of the Christian faith was already so common, that it cannot be certainly said whether these words are an allusion to some local distress, or to a general persecution. But they might refer either to A.D. 64, at the end of the persecution under Nero, or to A.D. 94, after that under Domitian.

In favour of the earlier of these dates, Clement in c. 5. seems to speak of the Apostles, Peter and Paul, as having been recently put to death. The expressions in c. 41. respecting the Temple at Jerusalem, seem to countenance the opinion, that the Temple was still standing, and that the Jewish war, which began A.D. 67, had not yet broken out. The Fortunatus also, whose name is found in c. 59, is conceived to have come from Corinth, and to have been the same, who is mentioned by St. Paul^o together with Stephanus, whose house was the first fruits of Achaia. If this supposition be correct, it is a presumption in favour of the earlier date: since at the later date, Fortunatus, if alive, could hardly have been capable of undergoing so long a journey.

^o 1 Cor. xvi. 15—17.

On the other hand, in c. 44, Clement seems to speak as if there had been a succession of intermediate persons in the Church, between himself and the Apostles.

The phrase "in the beginning of the Gospel," and the appellation of "Ancient Church", applied to the Corinthians^r, have also been adduced as favouring a later date.

The high value which the ancient Christian Church set upon this Epistle of Clement is ascertained by the commendations which they bestow upon it. Irenæus^s describes this Epistle as having been written by the Church of Rome under Clement, to the Corinthians, and speaks of it as a most powerful Epistle. Eusebius^t denominates it "a great and admirable Epistle." Dionysius, Bishop of Corinth, about the year 170 testifies to the fact that this Epistle was read in the Church of Corinth from ancient times^u: and other writers^v shew that it was publickly read in other Christian Churches. Eusebius observes also that there is a great similarity in the style of this Epistle and that of the Epistle to the Hebrews: and that

^r c. 47.

^s Hæres. iii. 3. Euseb. H. E. v. 6.

^t H. E. iii. 16.

^u Eusebius H. E. iv. 23.

^v Eusebius H. E. iii. 16. Jerome de Viris Illustribus, c. 15. Epiphanius Hæres. xxx. Num. 15. Photius Biblioth. Cod. 123.

Clement on several occasions quotes that book of the New Testament.

Notwithstanding the great esteem in which the primitive Church held this Epistle of Clement, and the numerous quotations from it, scattered over the pages of ecclesiastical writers, the Epistle itself was for many centuries considered to be lost. At length it was discovered, at the end of a manuscript containing the Septuagint version of the Old Testament, and the New Testament. This manuscript had been presented to King Charles the First, by Cyril, Patriarch of Alexandria, and afterwards of Constantinople. The valuable treasure was discovered by Mr. Young, the keeper of the Royal Library: and was first published at Oxford, in 1633. The original manuscript is now in the British Museum.

The Epistle thus happily and unexpectedly recovered, agrees in all respects with the accounts given of the Epistle of Clement, and with the quotations from that Epistle found in ecclesiastical writers.¹ The absence of one or two quotations

¹ Clem. Alexand. Stromat. i. p. 229. iv. p. 516. v. p. 556. vi. p. 647. Origen. de Principiis. ii. c. 8. Ad Johani. i. 24. Cyril. Hierosol. Cateches. xviii. p. 218. Epiphanius Heres. xxvi. Num. 6. xxx. Num. 15. Jerome. In Esaiam. iii. 18. Ep. ad Cor. viii. Ad Ephes. ii. 2. iv. 1. Photius. Cod. 126.

or allusions^x is sufficiently accounted for by the fact that a fragment is still wanting at the end of c. 57.

We recognise in this Epistle the dignified simplicity of style, which is mentioned^y as one of its remarkable features, and is most characteristic of the Apostolic age.

The Church of Corinth, having been distracted with seditions, appears to have made application to Clement and the Church of Rome, which was itself then exposed to persecution. After some delay, arising from this cause, Clement addresses^z the Corinthians, in the name of the Church of God which is at Rome, and reminds them of the firmness of their faith, their fruitfulness in all good works, and the order and obedience which once prevailed among them. He contrasts their previous Christian discipline with their present disorder and schism: and proceeds to shew by numerous examples, what evils have been produced by envy and hatred. He incidentally alludes to the recent martyrdom of St. Peter and St. Paul, and of many others, who had suffered in times of persecution.

^x Basil. De Spiritu Sancto. c. 29.

^y Photius Biblioth. Cod. 126.

^z cc. 1—7.

After this introduction, Clement^a assures the Corinthians how sensible he is, that he himself requires to be reminded of these truths: he exhorts them to look stedfastly to the blood of Christ, which has obtained the grace of repentance to all the world; and refers to numerous passages of Scripture, which teach the doctrine of repentance, and give examples of faithful obedience. He expatiates upon the duty of humility and peace, after the example of Christ, who came in all humility, although he was “the Sceptre of the Majesty of God:” and in imitation of those, who went about in sheep skins and goat skins, and of other holy men.

Clement then shews^b, in a passage of great beauty and sublimity, that God has impressed upon the whole creation the visible marks of order, and arranged the several parts in concord and peace; and thence exhorts the Corinthians to return to their former purity and meekness, confirmed by faith in Christ, not doubting the excellent gifts of his grace.

Clement proceeds^c to remind the Corinthians that many objects of the natural world remind

^a cc. 8—19.

^b cc. 20—22.

^c c. 24.

us of the resurrection from the dead, of which our Lord Jesus Christ was the first fruits. He exemplifies this in the succession of day and night, and in the growth of seed, which first dies in the ground. He adopts the story of the Phœnix,⁴ which was believed by his contemporaries, and regards it as an emblem of the resurrection ; and exhorts the Corinthians to hold fast the faith, to repent, and return to God in holiness. He then again refers to examples of those who have obtained blessing from God, and to the works of God himself, as an encouragement to fulfil his will.

He teaches submission,⁵ and dwells upon the magnitude and importance of the eternal gifts of God, and exhorts them to fix their minds through faith towards God in Jesus Christ our High Priest, by whom God would have us taste of the knowledge of immortality. He then notices⁶ the gradations of rank in an army, and the members of the body, which all conspire to promote the general good, as examples of the order which ought to prevail in the Church. After a quotation from the Book of Job,⁷ Clement shews that the order

⁴ c. 25, 26. See note p. 25.

⁵ cc. 34—36.

⁶ c. 37.

⁷ c. 39.

of times and seasons in religious offices, as well as various gradations of the priesthood, are appointed by God, and that the successors of the Apostles in the ministry were ordained by them, after they had been proved by the Spirit;^h and refers to the instance of Aaron having been miraculously called to the priesthood. He explains more at large the care which the Apostles took, that chosen and approved men should constantly succeed in the ministry:ⁱ contrasts the divisions among the Corinthians with the examples of holy men of old; and shews the sin of schism.

Clement then refers^k to the first Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians:^l exhorts them to unity; sets forth the excellence of Christian charity; advises them to repent, and confess their sin: and to forgive one another after the example of Moses and others. He exhorts them meekly to pray for those who are in error; and calls upon the seditious to submit themselves.

At this part of the Epistle there is a passage omitted; but the conclusion, containing an affectionate and truly apostolical benediction, is preserved.^m

^h c. 42.

ⁱ cc. 44—46.

^k c. 47—57.

^l 1 Cor. i. 12.

^m c. 58, 59, 60.

This Epistle is the only genuine writing of Clement. Eusebius^a mentions indeed another Epistle of his, which was not so generally received as the first, and was not quoted by the ancients. The fragment of a second Epistle, now extant and attributed to Clement, is generally believed to be spurious. And other writings which bear his name, The Recognitions and Homilies, as well as the Constitutions and Canons of the Apostles, which have been ascribed to him, are certainly productions of a later age.

Little is known respecting the latter days of Clement. That his mind was made up to suffer martyrdom for the faith, is manifest from the determined but quiet spirit of resignation which he expresses.^c But there is no sufficient evidence for the story that he was banished into the Crimea by Trajan, and there suffered martyrdom by drowning.^b He is with more reason believed to have died in possession of his Episcopal office, about the third year of Trajan, A.D. 100. He was succeeded in the See of Rome by Evarestus.

The Epistle of Clement having been written for a particular purpose, affords only occasional in-

^a H. E. iii. 38.

^b c. 7.

^c See Cave's Life, c. 7. 8.

formation respecting the state of the Church at the period when it was written. We find in it however proof that, within a few years after the death of the Apostles Peter and Paul, Christian Churches were established by their order, and governed according to directions received from them.^q We have an appeal made to the acknowledged purity of life and peaceableness of deportment, which characterized the primitive Christians;^r although the Corinthian Church, in which divisions had taken place at a very early period,^s had much degenerated. And we have testimony, direct and indirect, to the persecutions to which the infant Church of Christ was so soon exposed.

Only one book of the New Testament is expressly quoted by Clement;^t and there is no mention of the Gospels by name, nor of their being collected into a volume. Words of our Lord, however, are quoted with respect, which are now found in the Gospels of St. Matthew, St. Mark, and St. Luke.^u There are probable allusions to the Acts of the Apostles,^x to the Epistle of St.

^q c. 42. 44. ^r c. 2. ^s 1 Cor. xi. 18. ^t 1 Cor. i. 12 c. 47.

^u Matt. vii. 1—12. Luke vi. 36—38. c. 13. Matt. xxvi. 24. xviii. 6. Mark ix. 42. Luke xvii. 2. c. 46. See Lardner, Credibility, Part II. c. 2.

^x Acts xx. 35. c. 2. Acts xiii. 22. c. 18.

Paul to the Romans,¹ to both his Epistles to the Corinthians,² to his Epistles to the Galatians,³ Ephesians,⁴ Philippians,⁵ Colossians,⁶ the first Epistle to the Thessalonians,⁷ both the Epistles to Timothy,⁸ and the Epistle to Titus.⁹ There are also, as Eusebius noticed,¹⁰ many coincidences of expression between the Epistle of Clement and the Epistle to the Hebrews,¹¹ and allusions to the Epistles of James,¹² and to the first and second Epistles of Peter.¹³

Lardner is of opinion, that the references and allusions to some of these books are manifest, and

¹ Rom. ix. 4. c. 38. Rom. xii. 5. c. 46. Rom. xiv. 1. c. 38.

² 1 Cor. x. 24. c. 48. 1 Cor. xii. 12. c. 37. 1 Cor. xiii. 4.

c. 49. 1 Cor. xv. 20. 36. 38. c. 24. 2 Cor. iii. 18. c. 36. 2 Cor. viii. 5. c. 56. 2 Cor. x. 17. c. 30. 2 Cor. xi. 24. c. 5.

³ Gal. i. 4. c. 49. ⁴ Eph. iv. 4.

⁵ Phil. i. 10. Ye were sincere and without offence, c. 2. Phil. ii. 5—7. c. 16.

⁶ Col. i. 10. c. 21. ⁷ 1 Thes. v. 18. 23. c. 38.

⁸ 1 Tim. i. 9. v. 4. c. 7. 1 Tim. ii. 8. c. 29. 1 Tim. iii. 13 c. 54.

⁹ Tit. iii. 1. Ye were ready to every good work, c. 2.

¹⁰ H. E. iii. 34.

¹¹ Heb. i. 3—13. c. 36. Heb. iii. 2. 5. c. 43. Heb. iv. 14. c. 58. Heb. vi. 13—15. c. 10. Heb. xi. 5. c. 9. Heb. xi. 8—20. c. 10. Heb. xi. 31. c. 12. Heb. xi. 37. c. 17. Heb. xiii. 1. 2. c. 11. Heb. xiii. 17. c. 1.

¹² James i. 5. c. 23. James ii. 21—24. c. 10. 17. 30. 31. James iii. 13. c. 38. James iv. 3. c. 30.

¹³ 1 Pet. iv. 8. c. 49. 1 Pet. v. 5. c. 2. 30. 38. 2 Pet. ii. 5. 6. c. 7. 11. 2 Pet. iii. 4. c. 23.

as he thinks, undeniable; as those to the Epistle to the Romans, and the first to the Corinthians. To these he would add the Epistle to the Hebrews, except that some might “think it not impossible for a man, who had been conversant with the Apostles, who was fully instructed in their doctrine and manner of reasoning, and also well acquainted with the Old Testament, to write with that great resemblance of the Epistle to the Hebrews, both in thought and expression, without borrowing from it, or imitating it;”^m and also because at a later period, in the time of Eusebius and Jerome, the Church of Rome did not receive the Epistle to the Hebrews.

Others however,ⁿ are satisfied from this Epistle that Clement possessed our three first Gospels, the Acts of the Apostles, the Epistle to the Romans, both the Epistles to the Corinthians, and the Epistle to the Hebrews.

This valuable testimony must also be taken as expressing the sentiments, not of Clement only, but of the Church of Rome, in whose name the Epistle is written, and as implying the high authority which the books had with the Corinthians themselves.

^m Credibility, Vol. I. pp. 300, 302.

ⁿ Mill Prolegomena, n. 140.

The Epistle of Clement contains, I believe, no allusion to existing miraculous powers.

The doctrines of this Epistle are worthy of its high character. It is shewn elsewhere^o that there is no foundation for the charge advanced by Photius and others, that Clement does not express himself in terms sufficiently elevated and distinct respecting the Divine nature of our Lord. Clement speaks of the necessity of spiritual aid to enlighten our understanding;^p says that we “are not justified by ourselves, neither by our own wisdom, or knowledge, or piety, in the works which we have done in holiness of heart; but by that faith, by which Almighty God hath justified all men from the beginning.”^q He speaks plainly of the Atonement by the blood of Christ, which was given for us,^r and is “precious in the sight of God; which being shed for our salvation, hath obtained the grace of repentance to the whole world.”^s He is careful also to shew the necessity of repentance and holiness,^t of peace and humility,^u after the example of our Lord;^v and that they who have the love of Christ should keep his commandments,^w and endeavour to advance in

^o Note (B) at the end of the volume.

^p c. 36.

^q c. 32.

^r c. 21. 49.

^s c. 7.

^t c. 8. 29.

^u c. 13. 15.

^v c. 16.

^w c. 30. 49.

all godliness,^a in firm hope of a resurrection^a to immortality and glory.^b

It will be remembered that all these points are touched upon only incidentally ; the main object of the Epistle being to correct particular disorders in the Church of Corinth.

Such is the Epistle of Clement, which, whether we regard its purely apostolic simplicity, the piety, meekness, and Christian spirit which pervade it, or the valuable testimony which it bears to the Scriptures of the New Testament, and to the condition and doctrines of the Church in the age immediately succeeding that of the Apostles, must be regarded as one of the most valuable remains of Christian antiquity.

POLYCARP.

THE birth-place and early life of Polycarp are involved in obscurity. He was, however, of eastern extraction, and appears to have been brought up as a slave by a noble matron named Callisto, who made him her heir.

That Polycarp conversed familiarly with those who had been the disciples of our Lord, and particularly received instruction from the Apostle

^a c. 32.

^a c. 24—26.

^b c. 35.

St. John, is proved by the testimony of Irenæus,^a who heard it from Polycarp himself. “I saw you,” says Irenæus, writing in his old age to Florinus,^b “when I was yet a youth, in the lower Asia with Polycarp; when you were distinguished for your splendid talents in the royal palace, and striving diligently to deserve his favour. I can call to mind what then took place more accurately than more recent events; for impressions made upon the youthful memory grow up and identify themselves with the very frame and texture of the mind. Well, therefore, could I describe the very place in which the blessed Polycarp sat and taught; his going out and coming in; the whole tenour of his life; his personal appearance; the discourses which he made to the people. How would he speak of the conversations which he had held with John, and with others who had seen the Lord. How did he make mention of their words, and of whatsoever he had heard from them respecting the Lord.”

Polycarp was further instructed in the Christian faith by Bucolus, Bishop of Smyrna, and by

^a Irenæus Hær. iii. 3. Euseb. H. E. iii. 36. iv. 14. See also the Martyrdom of Ignatius, c. 3. p. 140.

^b Epistola ad Florinum: Euseb. H. E. v. 20.

him ordained Deacon and Catechist of that Church. On the death of Bucolus, Polycarp was ordained Bishop of Smyrna. Some^c ascribe his ordination as Bishop to the Apostle John himself: others^d to some of the Apostles, or^e to apostolic men.

Archbishop Usher^f conceives Polycarp to have been “the angel of the Church in Smyrna,” whom St. John addresses in the Revelation.^g

Very few particulars are known respecting the remaining part of the life of Polycarp. He enjoyed the greatest reputation for holiness; and was regarded both by the enemies and friends of the Church, as one of the principal supporters of the faith. He was appointed to go to Rome, on occasion of the controversy between the Eastern and Western Churches respecting the celebration of Easter. Irenæus^h relates how successful Polycarp was during that visit, in bringing back to the faith those also who had erred; and relates a conversation with Marcion, who seems to have been desirous of obtaining, if not the approbation, at least the tacit acquiescence of the venerable Polycarp. The heretical leader accosted him in the

^c Tertullian, *De Præscriptione Hæreticorum*, c. 32.

^d Irenæus *Hær.* iii. 3. ^e Euseb. *H. E.* iii. 36.

^f *Prolegomena ad Ignat. Epist.* c. 3.

^g Rev. ii. 8—10. ^h Irenæus iii. 3. Euseb. iv. 14.

words, “Dost thou acknowledge me?” “I do,” was the reply of Polycarp; “I acknowledge thee for the first-born of Satan.” The tenets of Marcion and the Gnostics were so totally subversive of the fundamental doctrines of Christianity, that it is not surprising that Polycarp should express himself in terms of strong reprobation respecting them. And the very same phrase having been used by Polycarp, in his Epistle to the Philippians,¹ adds probability to the narrative, and is an internal mark of the genuineness of the Epistle.

The life of Polycarp was prolonged to a great age.² Cave, after Eusebius and Jerome,³ places his martyrdom in the year 167, and conceives him then to have been nearly a hundred years old. He considers, with Tillemont, that the assertion of Polycarp himself, “Fourscore and six years have I continued serving Christ,”⁴ refers to the period which had elapsed after his conversion, and not to the length of his whole life. Bishop Pearson,⁵ however, with more probability places his martyrdom in the year 147, in the reign of Antoninus

¹ c. 7.

² Irenæus iii. 3.

³ Cave’s Life of Polycarp, cc. 6. 15. Jerome de Viris Illustr. c. 13.

⁴ Martyrdom of Polycarp, c. 9.

⁵ Dissert. Chron. Part II. cc. 14. 20.

Pius, about the period in which Justin Martyr's first *Apology* was written. An ancient inscription is in favour of this date.^o

The circular Epistle of the Church of Smyrna^p contains a full account of the martyrdom of Polycarp, and was so highly prized, that Eusebius has inserted almost the whole of it in his history. It is a very valuable memorial of Christian antiquity, and is remarkable for discouraging, rather than inciting persons to offer themselves voluntarily for persecution.^q The resigned spirit of the venerable Polycarp is beautifully portrayed. His prudent retirement for a time, his calm submission to his persecutors, his dignified demeanour before the Proconsul, and the piety which he displayed in his prayers, both at the period of his apprehension and at the hour of death, complete a picture of a Christian martyr, worthy of a follower of the Apostles, and of the high character which he had maintained during his life.

Polycarp is believed^r to have written several Epistles, but of these none is extant except his

^o Chishull's Travels, p. 11, referred to by Lardner, Credibility, Part ii. c. 6.

^p p. 147. of this volume.

^q c. 4.

^r Irenæus, Epist. ad Florin. ap. Euseb. H. E. v. 20. Hieron. Epist. ad Levinum. The fragments ascribed to Polycarp, by

Epistle to the Philippians, which was always most highly esteemed,[•] and was publickly read in the Churches of Asia.[†] In style and matter it bears a great resemblance to the Epistle of Clement to the Corinthians.[‡]

This Epistle forms an appropriate introduction to the Epistles of Ignatius, although, in strictly chronological order, it would follow them. Ignatius had recently passed through Smyrna, bound with chains, and guarded by a band of soldiers, who treated him with great cruelty, as he was being led to Rome, there to seal his testimony to the faith with his blood. As he came to the different cities, it appears from his letters that the Churches sent chosen men to meet him and attend him: and at Smyrna he conversed with Polycarp, and exhibited to the Church there a

by Victor of Capua in the sixth century, (see Grabe's *Irenæus*, p. 205.) are probably spurious. Lardner thinks that Irenæus and Eusebius had seen no writing of Polycarp but his Epistle to the Philippians.

[•] *Irenæus Hær.* iii. 3.

[†] *Hieron. de Script. in Polycarp.*

[‡] Photius, in the ninth century, states that this Epistle was then read, and observes that it was contained in the same book with the Epistle of Clement to the Corinthians.

See Pearson *Vindiciae Ignatianæ*, Par. i. c. 5. where it is fully shewn, that the Epistle, which we now have, is the same to which the earliest Christian writers bear testimony.

splendid example of patience and Christian fortitude. It seems probable, from the commencement of Polycarp's Epistle, that certain of the Philippians had accompanied Ignatius, on his departure from their city towards Rome. Soon after that time, and before any accurate intelligence of his death had reached the Church of Smyrna,^x Polycarp addressed this letter to the Church at Philippi, sending, at the same time, the Epistles which Ignatius had written to himself and to the Smyrneans,^y and several other of his Epistles.

Polycarp begins his Epistle by commanding the Philippians for their attention to those who had suffered for the faith, and for their own stedfastness: and exhorts them to continue in faith and piety. He reminds them of the doctrine which St. Paul had taught them, in his Epistle addressed to them, and proceeds to set before them the duties of faith, hope, and charity.^z He admonishes them to beware of covetousness; rehearses the duties of husbands, wives, and widows; of deacons, young men, presbyters, and virgins: and enforces these duties by the consideration that all must give an account to God of their actions.^a

^x Compare cc. 9. 14. ^y c. 13. ^z cc. 1—3. ^a cc. 4—6.

He then proceeds to matters of faith : refers to the nature and sufferings of Christ ; to his atonement, and to the example afforded by Him, and by the Apostles and martyrs, as motives to mutual charity and good order.^b

Having expressed his regret for the misconduct of Valens and his wife, in the true spirit of Christian charity for the offenders, while their offence is rebuked, he declares his confidence that the Philippians are exercised in the holy Scriptures; prays for them ; and commands them to pray for others: and, in conclusion, gives directions respecting the letters of Ignatius.^c

The brief Epistle of Polycarp contains numerous references to the books of the New Testament. There are expressly quoted as the writings of St. Paul, the first Epistle to the Corinthians,^d his Epistle to the Philippians,^e and probably that to the Thessalonians.^f There is also a passage^g in which the Epistle to the Ephesians seems to be quoted under the appellation of “the holy scriptures.”

With reference to this passage, Lardner^h observes that the words “Be ye angry and sin not,”

^b cc. 7—10.

^c cc. 11—14.

^d c. 11.

^e c. 3.

^f c. 11. Compare 2 Thess. i. 4.

^g c. 12. Eph. iv. 26.

^h Credibility, Part II. c. 6.

are in the Septuagint version of Ps. iv. 4. “But,” he adds, “as the latter advice ‘Let not the sun go down on your wrath,’ is no where found in the Old Testament, and both these precepts are together in the Epistle to the Ephesians, it seems to me that Polycarp does expressly refer the Philippians to St. Paul’s Epistle to the Ephesians, and calls it Scripture. If this be so, then we see, that the writings of the New Testament had now the name of ‘Sacred Writings,’ or ‘Holy Scriptures,’ and that they were much read by Christians in general.”

In another place¹ Polycarp appears to refer to the Scriptures of the New Testament in general, in the phrase, “ Whosoever perverts *the oracles* of the Lord to his own lusts, and says there is neither resurrection nor judgment, he is the first-born of Satan :” and there are other references^k to passages now found in the Gospels, as the words of our Lord.

In the translation of this Epistle a reference is made to many passages of the New Testament to which Polycarp alludes. Others are subjoined.^l

ⁱ c. 7.

^k cc. 2. 7.

^l Matt. v. 44. c. 12. Pray for those who persecute and hate you.

Rom. xiii. 9. 10. c. 3. For if any one have these things, he hath fulfilled the law of righteousness.

2 Cor. vi. 7. c. 4. Let us arm ourselves with the armour of righteousness.

In this very short Epistle we have then references to two of the Gospels, to the Acts of the Apostles, to ten of the first thirteen Epistles of St. Paul, and probably to the Epistles to the Colossians and to the Hebrews: to the First

Gal. iv. 26. c. 3. Edified in the faith delivered to you, which is the mother of us all.

Phil. ii. 16. c. 9. All these have not run in vain.

Col. i. 28. c. 12. That ye may be perfect in Christ.

1 Thess. v. 22. c. 2. Abstain from all unrighteousness.

2 Thess. i. 4. c. 11. For he glories in you, in all the churches, which alone had known God.

Thessalonica being the capital city of the Province of Macedonia in which Philippi was, Polycarp might consider the Epistle to the Thessalonians as addressed also to the Philippians. See c. 3. note 1.

1 Tim. ii. 1, 2. c. 12. Pray for all the saints. Pray also for kings, &c.

1 Tim. iii. 8. c. 5. The deacons must not be double tongued. The whole chapter resembles 1 Tim. iii.

2 Tim. ii. 11. c. 5. If we walk worthy of him we shall also reign with him.

2 Tim. iv. 10. c. 9. They loved not this present world.

Heb. iv. 12. c. 4. He sees all blemishes, and nothing is hid from him, &c.

1 Pet. ii. 17. c. 10. Lovers of the brotherhood.

1 Pet. iv. 5. c. 2. Who comes to be the judge of quick and dead.

1 Pet. v. 5. c. 10. Be ye subject one to another.

Jude. ver. 3. c. 3. Ye may be able to be edified in the faith delivered unto you.

The words in c. 12. "Now the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and he himself who is our everlasting High-priest, the Son of God, Jesus Christ, build you up in faith and truth :" seem to be an allusion to Heb. iv. 14. vi. 20. vii. 3.

**Epistle of St. Peter,^m and to the First Epistle
of St. John.ⁿ**

Of a writing, which is so scriptural in its language, it is needless to observe that the doctrines are pure. Faith in Christ, who is our hope, and the earnest of our righteousness,^o who suffered for us, that we might live through him, “our everlasting High Priest, the Son of God;”^p a faith bringing forth the fruits of holiness, purity, and meekness;^q salvation by grace, not of works but by the will of God, through Jesus Christ;^r watchfulness unto prayer, perseverance in fasting, and supplication to God not to lead us into temptation;^s and for all conditions of men;^t the imitation of the example of Christ, and of his faithful disciples;^u the study of the Scriptures,^x—these are the doctrines of this truly Apostolical Epistle. And these doctrines are employed to enforce the fullest discharge of all the relative duties of different stations in life.^y

^m Eusebius, H. E. iv. 14. says that Polycarp in his Epistle to the Philippians uses testimonies from the First Epistle of Peter.

ⁿ See Lardner, Credibility, Part II. c. 6. 41.

^o cc. 1. 8.

^p c. 12.

^q c. 2. 12

^r c. 1.

^s c. 7.

^t c. 12.

^u c. 8. 9.

^x c. 12.

^y cc. 4—6.

The profession of Polycarp was no vain display. Their influence upon his own life is exemplified in the calm serenity with which he met his death; and in the humble confidence which he expressed in his last prayer.¹

IGNATIUS.

IGNATIUS appears to have been a man of much more ardent mind than Polycarp. The place of his birth and even his country are entirely unknown. The tradition has been preserved^a that he was a disciple of St. John, that he conversed with the Apostles, and was instructed by them both in the familiar and more sublime doctrines of Christianity; but it appears^b that he had never conversed with our Lord himself.^c So highly was he esteemed that, about the year 70, on the death of Euodius, he was ordained Bishop of the important Church of Antioch, the metropolis of Syria, possibly by the imposition of the hands of the Apostles,^d who still survived. The high character

^a Martyrdom of Polycarp, c. 14.

^b Martyrdom of Ignatius, c. 1. 3. Eusebius, H. E. iii. 36. Chrysostom Homil. in S. Ignat. Tom. v. p. 499. 17. Savile.

^c Chrysostom, Tom. v. p. 503. 36.

^c See Note (a) p. 71.

^d Eusebius, H. E. iii. 36. Chrysostom Hom. Tom. v. p. 499. 32. In the Apostolical Constitutions, vii. 46. Ignatius is said to have been ordained Bishop by St. Paul. Others mention

which he bore is manifest from the terms in which he is described,^c as “a man in all things like the Apostles;” one who, “like a skilful pilot, by the helm of prayer and fasting, by the constancy of his doctrine and spiritual labour, withstood the raging floods, fearing lest he should lose any of those who wanted courage, or were not well grounded in the faith.”

Socrates,^f in the fifth century, ascribes to Ignatius the introduction of the custom of singing hymns alternately in the choir, at Antioch. And some have thought^e that, although Flavianus and Diodorus, in the time of Constantius were the first who introduced at Antioch the custom of thus singing the Psalms of David, yet hymns might be so used at a period as early as the time of Ignatius.

If the tradition be unfounded, the use made of the name of Ignatius shews at least that his memory was held in great respect at Antioch so long after his death.

mention St. Peter also. The improbability of this is shewn in Dr. Burton’s Lectures on the Ecclesiastical History of the First Century. Lect. xii.

^c Relation of the Martyrdom of Ignatius, c. 1.

^f Socrates, H. E. vi. 8.

^e See Bingham, xiv. 1. 11.

But the best memorial of his pastoral zeal and diligence is found in the letters which he wrote to the different Churches, as he was carried prisoner from Antioch to Rome, in order to be put to death.

The date of the martyrdom of Ignatius is differently computed. According to the Acts of his martyrdom, it took place in the year 107, the ninth year of Trajan's reign. And this date is accordingly followed by many chronologists. Others,^b however, with great probability fix upon the year 116.

Whatever was the precise date, he was called to answer before Trajan, as he passed through Antioch, elated with his late victory over the Scythians and Dacians, and about to set out on his Parthian expedition. The peculiar circumstances in which Trajan was placed may perhaps shew why that prince, who was usually mild and considerate, exercised such severity towards Ignatius. In the history of the martyrdom of Ignatius the rigour of the Emperor is ascribed to his desire of reducing the Christians, as well as others,

^b Bp. Pearson, *Dissertatio de anno quo S. Ignatius ad bestias erat condemnatus.* Lloyd apud Paget ad Baron. an. 109. Grabe ad Acta Ignatii.

to submission to his will. It is not improbable however, that Trajan, on his arrival at Antioch, found a persecution already raging there. Times of public rejoicing were usually periods of peculiar vexation to the primitive Christians, who were then especially urged to comply with some of the idolatrous customs of the heathen. The arrival of the Emperor was calculated to call forth the most vivid feelings both of loyalty and superstition: and all his subjects were not likely to imitate the decent flattery of Pliny, who, in ascribing to his imperial patron the highest virtues of which human nature is capable, complimented him upon his refusing to receive divine honours.¹

Ignatius might thus probably be pointed out to Trajan as a leader of a sect which refused to sacrifice to the gods for the safety of the Emperor, and the success of his arms: and the venerable Bishop was not of a disposition to shrink from the severest trial to which his profession of the faith exposed him. He voluntarily offered to be brought

¹ Discernatur orationibus nostris diversitas temporum, et ex ipso genere gratiarum agendarum intelligatur, cui, quando sint hactenus ut deo, nunc nusquam ut numini blandiamur. Non enim de tyranno, sed de cive: non de domino, sed de parente loquimur. Plinii Panegyricus, sub init. Compare Tertullian Apol. c. 34.

before Trajan, and there expressed himself in the noble manner recorded in the Acts of his martyrdom.

The result of his conference with the Emperor was such as might have been expected. He who gave Pliny directions not to seek for the Christians, in his province, but, if they were brought before him, and proved to be such, to punish them capitally,^{*} acted only in consistency with his own principles, when he condemned Ignatius to suffer death.

It is not so easy to account for the reason which induced Trajan to send him from Antioch to Rome, to be exposed to the wild beasts. If the advisers of the Emperor intended, by such a cruel delay, either to break the spirit of the martyr, or to give him an opportunity of recanting, their object was far from being attained. Ignatius rejoiced that he was counted worthy to suffer for the faith of Christ. Although deeply conscious of his own infirmity as a man, and sensible of his inferiority to the Apostles, in whose steps he trod, his only fear was lest the love of the brethren at Rome or elsewhere should prevent him from attaining the crown of martyrdom.

* Plin. Epist. x. 98.

In reading his passionate appeals, especially in his Epistle to the Romans,¹ we cannot but feel that the ardent and almost impatient spirit, by which he was animated, is strongly contrasted with the dignified calmness of St. Paul, when he was “in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ, which is far better,” but was yet contented to “abide in the flesh,” which was more needful for his converts.^m It must be remembered however that Ignatius lived at a period, when the blood of the martyrs was appointed to be the seed of the Church: that if his notions of martyrdom appear to have been exaggerated, he expresses the most perfect resignation, the deepest humility and self abasement, in speaking of himself. And we cannot but admire the high courage of this worthy successor of the Apostles, which, as he passed from Antioch to Rome, as a condemned and degraded criminal, converted his tedious journey into a triumphal procession.

His progress is accurately described in the Acts of his martyrdom. He set sail from Seleucia, and landed for a short time at Smyrna. At this place he was gratified with an interview with Polycarp,

¹ c. 4. 5.

^m Phil. i. 23, 24.

the Bishop of that see, who had been with him a fellow disciple of St. John. And, as soon as his arrival was known, the neighbouring churches of Asia sent their Bishops, and other messengers to visit the venerable martyr. The Church of Ephesus was represented by Onesimus;ⁿ that of Magnesia, by Damas,^o that of Tralles, by Polybius,^p their respective Bishops, and by others of their body. During his hurried stay at Smyrna, he found leisure to write his Epistles, to the Ephesians, Magnesians, and Trallians; and to send also his Epistle to the Romans, by some Ephesians, who were likely to reach the imperial city sooner than himself.

Ignatius had intended to write a second Epistle to the Ephesians;^q but either he was prevented by want of time, or the Epistle has been lost.

During his abode at Smyrna he was in great anxiety for the Church of Syria which he had left under persecution; and in all the letters^r which he wrote from that city, he entreats their prayers for his own suffering Church, which was deprived of its

ⁿ Ignatius Ephes. c. 1.

^o Magne. c. 2.

^p Trall. c. 1.

^q Ephes. c. 20.

^r Eph. c. 21. Magn. c. 14. Trall. c. 13. Rom. c. 9.

Bishop.^s But when he had advanced as far as Troas, he learned that the persecution at Antioch had ceased; not improbably from some decree of Trajan himself. It should be observed, that in the three remaining Epistles, which Ignatius wrote from Troas, to the Churches of Philadelphia and Smyrna, and individually to Polycarp,^t he incidentally expresses his heartfelt satisfaction that their prayers had been heard, and that the Church of Syria was at peace, and had received its “proper body;” probably by the appointment of Heros, as his successor in the episcopal office.

Ignatius would have written to other churches;^u but was hurried away from Troas to Neapolis by those who guarded him. He thence proceeded by land through Macedonia and Epirus, to Epidamnus; embarked again for Italy; and, on his arrival at Rome, on the last day of the public spectacles, was immediately thrown to the wild beasts in the Amphitheatre; displaying in his last moments the same constancy and piety as had marked his previous life.

^s Rom. c. 9.

^t Philadelph. c. 10. Smyrn. c. 11. Epist. to Polycarp, c. 7.

^u Epist. to Polycarp, c. 8.

THE EPISTLES OF IGNATIUS.

THE Epistles of Ignatius are most interesting and valuable documents of the early Christian Church. They are the unstudied effusions of an ardent and deeply religious mind ; and bespeak a man who was superior to this world, and anxious to finish his course with joy. It is an internal mark of their genuineness that their style is harsh and unpolished ; and occasionally not untinctured with some degree of oriental exaggeration.

Eusebius,^a in mentioning these seven Epistles, observes that Ignatius was peculiarly desirous to repress the heretical opinions which were then first beginning to spring up in the Church, and to confirm those whom he addressed, in the faith delivered by the Apostles. The heretical tenets were those of the Gnostics ; and it is evident from Ignatius' Epistles to the Asiatic Churches that the evil was very prevalent and injurious. In his Epistle to Polycarp there are only two general cautions^b against false doctrine ; and in his Epistle to the Romans, there are no allusions to the subject. That Epistle, however, was written principally to prepare the Church of Rome for his approach ; and

^a H. E. iii. 36.

^b c. 3. 5.

Ignatius was so far from possessing the same acquaintance with it as with the Churches of Asia, that he does not even mention the name of its Bishop. No conclusion, therefore, can be drawn from this circumstance, as to the prevalence of Gnosticism at Rome.

The evils of schism, and the great disorders arising from the disobedience of individuals, especially in the infant state of the Church, will account for the very forcible language in which Ignatius urges obedience to the Bishops, Presbyters, and Deacons, as the successors of the Apostles, according to Divine appointment.

The doctrines contained in the Epistles of Ignatius are purely scriptural. The hasty manner in which they were written, prevents them from containing any thing like a formal declaration of any doctrinal points: but constant incidental references are made to the absolute Divinity of our Lord,^c to his pre-existence,^d and eternity,^e and the union of the divine and human nature in his person;^f to the influence of the Holy Spirit,^g sal-

^c Ephes. Introduction cc. 1. 7. 18. 19. 20. Magnes. 7.
Epist. to Polycarp, c. 8. Martyrdom, c. 2. 8.

^d Magnes. c. 6. 8.

^e Magnes. c. 6.

^f Smyrn. c. 4.

^g Eph. c. 8. 15.

vation by means of Christ's death alone,^b and the necessity of personal holiness.^c

The testimony which Ignatius bears to the writings of the New Testament is very valuable. He quotes, indeed, only one book by name, the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians;^d but Lardner shews at length that he alludes plainly to the Gospels of St. Matthew and St. John, and probably to that of St. Luke: that he has allusions to the Acts of the Apostles, to eleven of the first thirteen Epistles of St. Paul, to the Epistle to the Hebrews, to the first Epistle of St. Peter, and to the first and third Epistles of St. John. He uses terms also which imply a collection of the Gospels, and of the Epistles of the Apostles, and of the books of the New Testament generally.^e

These allusions, it will be seen, are usually made in an incidental, unstudied manner, without express marks of reference; precisely, indeed, in the manner in which we might expect Ignatius, under the circumstances in which he wrote, to have referred to Scriptures, with the general meaning of which both he and those whom he addressed

^b Trall. c. 2. Phil. c. 8. 9. Smyrn. c. 1. 2. 6. Martyrd. c. 2.

^c Eph. c. 12. Rom. c. 7. Epist. to Polycarp, c. 1.

^d Ignat. Ephes. c. 12.

^e Lardner, Credibility, Part II. c. 5.

were well acquainted; but without the formality of express verbal quotation.

It would be foreign to the present purpose to enter at any length into the well-known controversy respecting the genuineness of these Epistles of Ignatius. All that can be here attempted is to give a general view of the evidence in their favour, as it has been most laboriously collected by Bp. Pearson^m and others who have exhausted the subject.

The question resolves itself into two parts, whether Ignatius left behind him written Epistles; and whether they are the same with those which we now possess. Now, Polycarp, in his Epistle to the Philippians, expressly mentions Epistles written by Ignatius. Irenæus,ⁿ in the second century, refers also to Ignatius, and alludes^o to a passage now found in his Epistle to the Romans. Origen,^p in the early part of the third century, quotes two passages from the Epistles of Ignatius, now extant in the Epistles to the Romans and Ephesians.

^m Vindiciæ Epistolarum S. Ignatii. See also Hammond, Dissertationes adversus Blondellum. Usher, Prolegom. ad Epist. Ignat. Bull Defensio Fid. Nicænæ, ii. 2. 8.

ⁿ Eusebius, H. E. v. 28.

^o Irenæus, v. 28. Eusebius, H. E. iii. 36.

^p Origen: Prolegom. in Cant. Canticor. Hom. vi. in Luc. Ignat. Rom. c. 7. Ephes. c. 19.

Eusebius,⁴ in the beginning of the fourth century, states that Ignatius wrote seven Epistles, four from Smyrna, and three from Troas, agreeing in their inscriptions and general character with the Epistles now extant. He quotes remarkable passages from the Epistles to the Romans, and Smyrneans; describes particularly the Epistle to Polycarp, by saying that in it Ignatius commends to Polycarp the care of the Church of Antioch; and with respect to the Epistles to the Ephesians, Magnesians, and Trallians, he says that in them Ignatius makes particular mention of the bishops of those Churches, Onesimus, Damas, and Polybius.

Such an accurate description of the Epistles of Ignatius could have been given only by one well acquainted with the Epistles themselves.

Bp. Pearson⁵ shews, at length, that the chain of reference to the Epistles of Ignatius extends without interruption through Christian writers from the second century to the fifteenth.

This evidence is abundantly sufficient to prove that Ignatius wrote certain Epistles; that seven of these existed at the beginning of the fourth cen-

⁴ Eusebius, H. E. iii. 36.

⁵ Vindicatio Ignat. Par. i. c. 2.

tury ; and that they were never altogether lost sight of.

The first printed edition of any Epistles ascribed to Ignatius appeared in 1557, although an old Latin version of three Epistles had been published sixty years earlier. This edition, with two others which appeared about the same time, contained twelve Epistles ; and it was soon suspected that the Epistles so edited were interpolated. It was observed, that seven Epistles only had been mentioned by Eusebius ; that the seven published Greek Epistles, with titles corresponding to those stated by Eusebius, did not agree with quotations from the acknowledged Epistles of Ignatius made by ancient Christian writers ; and that of the remaining five no notice was taken by any ancient writer.

Nearly a hundred years after the publication of these editions, Archbishop Usher observed that some English writers had quoted passages from the Epistles of Ignatius, which did not agree with the Greek text or Latin version of the published Epistles, although they did agree with quotations made by Theodoret. It immediately occurred to his acute and enquiring mind, that some manuscript of the genuine Epistles of Ignatius might

exist in England : and his enquiries led to the discovery of two Latin manuscripts, one in the Library of Caius College Cambridge, the other in the possession of Dr. Richard Montacute, Bishop of Norwich, which differed materially from the Greek editions hitherto published, but agreed with the quotations made by the earlier Christian writers.

With the assistance of these manuscripts, the Archbishop published, in 1644, a Greek edition of the Epistles of Ignatius, in which the additions made in the interpolated editions were distinguished by red ink.

Two years after this, in 1646, Isaac Vossius published an edition of the genuine Epistles of Ignatius in Greek, from an ancient manuscript discovered in the Medicean Library at Florence, and closely corresponding with the ancient Latin version previously discovered.

The agreement of these shorter Epistles with the quotations in early Christian writers, added to their internal evidence, establishes their genuineness as strongly as the nature of the case appears to admit.

It is plainly shewn, that the genuine Epistles of Ignatius, which had been collected by Polycarp,

were probably known to Irenæus, and certainly eulogized by Eusebius, had been interpolated, it is supposed about the sixth century, by additions made in such a manner as to retain many of the sentiments of Ignatius, but in other respects to differ materially from his language. These interpolations appear also to have been made not without design, as may easily be seen by comparing the interpolated with the genuine Epistles in any of the passages which most pointedly refer to the Divine nature of our Lord.¹ Besides these interpolated Epistles, other spurious Epistles were ascribed to Ignatius, probably as early as the middle of the seventh century.

It must be considered a most happy circumstance, that so valuable a relic of Christian antiquity, as these Epistles of Ignatius, should have been thus recovered, after having been lost, or partially obscured, for so many years.

JUSTIN MARTYR.

THE writings of Clement, Ignatius, and Polycarp are addressed to Christians, and are very interesting as shewing us the feelings and sentiments

¹ As for instance, Ephes. Introduction; cc. 1. 7. 18. 20. There is an English translation of the Interpolated Epistles of Ignatius in Whiston's Primitive Christianity Revived.

of some of the earliest writers after the Apostles themselves. There is another class of Christian writings, the Apologies, or defences, which were addressed to the adversaries of the faith. Several of these have been preserved. And among them two of the most valuable are those of Justin Martyr and Tertullian.

Justin Martyr was born about the year 100, at Flavia Neapolis,^a anciently called Sichem, in Samaria. His parents were Gentiles,^b and probably Greeks. In his youth, his ardour for the acquisition of knowledge was gratified by travel: he visited Alexandria: and in the early part of his life became acquainted with the opinions of the different sects of philosophers. He attached himself^c to the Stoics, till he found that from them he could obtain no knowledge of the nature of God. The covetousness of the Peripatetics, to whom he next applied, soon disgusted him. And on endeavouring to study the Pythagorean philosophy, he quickly relinquished the notion of uniting himself permanently with a sect, which required as a preliminary step an extensive acquaintance with music, astronomy, and geometry. The tenets of

^a Apol. c. i. ii. p. 52.

^b Apol. c. 68.

^c Dialogue, p. 218.

the Platonists^d were more agreeable to his natural disposition. But finding no satisfaction to his mind from any of these systems of philosophy, he was led to examine Christianity, and found in it the certainty and adaptation to his mental wants which no other studies had afforded.^e

The direct argument in favour of Christianity, which appears to have had the greatest weight with Justin, was the courage with which men of all ranks submitted to death in the cause of the Gospel, while no one was ever found to die in support of any philosophical opinions.^f “While,” he says,^g “I was myself still delighted with the philosophy of Plato, I used to hear the Christians calumniated, but saw that they fearlessly encountered death, and all that is most formidable to other men. I was convinced that these men could not be living in wickedness or sinful pleasure. For what man, who was subject to his passions and to intemperance, or delighted to feed on human flesh, would dare to embrace death, which would put a period to all his delights? Such a man would strive by all means to preserve his present life; would endeavour to conceal himself from those in power: least

^d Apol. ii. p. 50.

^e Dial. p. 225.

^f Apol. ii. p. 48.

^g Apol. ii. p. 50. A.

of all would he offer himself voluntarily for punishment."

After his conversion to Christianity, Justin still continued to wear the dress of a philosopher.^b This circumstance has been considered to imply an undue attachment to the opinions which he had renounced. It was a practice, however, far from uncommon:^c and Justin might continue to use the dress, either as sufficiently consistent with the severity of life which Christianity required, or as a custom, in a matter of indifference, with which he might innocently comply.^d

About the beginning of the reign of Antoninus Pius, Justin Martyr fixed his abode in Rome;^e and employed the means, which his previous studies had put into his power, in defending the purity of the Christian faith. He wrote a treatise^m against heresies, especially against Marcion. About this time he addressed his first Apology to Antoninus Pius, Marcus Antoninus, Lucius Verus, the Senate and the people of Rome. The precise date of this Apology has been the subject of much discussion, without leading to any very satisfactory decision.

^b Dial. p. 217. C. Eusebius, H. E. iv. 11.

^c Cave's Life of Justin Martyr, c. 6.

^d Compare Tertullian Apol. c. 42.

^e Eusebius, H. E. iv. 11.

^m Apol. i. c. 36.

There are few internal marks of time in the Apology itself. Justin onceⁿ speaks, in round numbers, of the birth of Christ, as having occurred a hundred and fifty years before. In other places, the death and deification of Antinous,^o the edict of Adrian against the Jews,^p and the revolt of Barchochebas,^q which all occurred between the years 130 and 134, are alluded to as recent events. The earliest date ascribed to the Apology is 139. Others place it as late as 150. In favour of the first date, Dodwell^r observes, that in the introduction Marcus Antoninus is not styled Cæsar, an omission which would imply that he had not yet received the title. On the other hand, Lucius Verus was born only in the year 131; and the terms in which Justin addresses him, in conjunction with the two Antonines, could scarcely be applied to a youth of eight years of age. If the Epistle^s to the States of Asia be properly ascribed to Antoninus Pius, and were written in his third consulship, A.D. 140, it is uncertain whether that Epistle were occasioned by Justin's Apology. Eusebius^t rather implies that it was written solely in

ⁿ c. 61. ^o c. 37. ^p c. 62. ^q c. 38.

^r *Dissertatio in Irenæum.* c. 14.

^s p. 278.

^t *H. E.* iv. 12.

consequence of expostulations which the Emperor had received from some Christians in Asia.

The Benedictine Editors, in the preface to their edition of Justin's works, adopt the opinion of Tillemont and others, who assign 150 as the date of Justin's first *Apology*.

This *Apology* is very valuable, as being the earliest specimen of the manner in which the first Christians defended themselves against their heathen adversaries. The arguments which he advances are not arranged in any very exact order.

He begins by demanding a fair hearing for the Christians, and expostulating against the injustice of punishing them unheard, or accusing all Christians of crimes, which might possibly be committed by some who bore that name.^{*} He ascribes the malice of the enemies of Christianity to the agency of demons; and demands that due enquiry may be made in each individual case, and sentence passed accordingly.^x

He shews that the doctrines of the Christians are harmless; and not derogatory to the divine nature:^y that the Christians look for no human kingdom; but are the best and most peaceable

* cc. 1—4.

^x cc. 5—7.

^y cc. 8—10.

subjects; knowing that in suffering they endure only what their Lord prophesied should come upon them.^z

He defends the Christians from the charge of impiety; appeals to the blameless lives which they lead after their conversion; and refers to many precepts of Christ which teach the necessity of holiness and obedience to authority.^a

Justin then argues on the possibility that the soul should survive death, appealing to the sentiments and practices of the heathen as implying that fact; and shewing that a resurrection from the dead is not so incredible as the first creation of an animated being.^b

He shews the injustice of punishing Christians for their opinions, when poets and philosophers were permitted without molestation to support others less defensible and less rational; and all other men were allowed to choose their own objects of worship.^c Justin appeals again to the reformation of life in Christians; whereas Simon Magus, who was honoured by the Romans, and Marcion, and other heretics, were not molested, however infamous their conduct might be.^d

^z cc. 11—15.

^a cc. 16—23.

^b cc. 24—26.

^c cc. 27—32.

^d cc. 33—35.

Having then contrasted the purity of the lives of Christians with the cruel custom of exposing their children practised by the heathen, Justin proceeds to the direct evidence of miracle and prophecy. He briefly alludes to the miracles of Christ, principally to refute the objection that they were performed by magical powers: and then alleges many prophecies of the Old Testament, which were fulfilled by Christ.^c From their accomplishment he contends that other events, which are predicted but yet unfulfilled, shall assuredly come to pass; such as the conversion of the Gentiles, the resurrection of the dead, and the future judgment by Christ.^d

Justin asserts that many actions ascribed to the heathen gods were imitations of the real actions of Jesus; and that the opinions of philosophers were a concealed representation of the truths of Christianity.^e

Justin, in conclusion, describes the manner in which the first converts were baptized;^h and, after a digression on the different appearances of Christ under the Mosaic dispensation, and on certain instances, in which the heathen gods were made to

^c cc. 36—65.

^f c. 66—69.

^g cc. 70—78.

^d c. 79, 80.

imitate what was written by Moses,¹ he gives a most interesting account of the state of the Christians in his time; describing the administration of the Eucharist in both kinds, the assembling of Christians on Sunday, and the manner in which they conducted their public worship, and made voluntary collections for the relief of the poorer brethren.²

He finishes his *Apology* with an expression of resignation, and an appeal to the letter of Adrian in favour of the Christians.

The Dialogue with Trypho the Jew was certainly written after the first *Apology*, to which there is an allusion;³ but the precise date is not known. It is the account of either a real or fictitious discussion with a Jew, which Eusebius^m states to have occurred at Ephesus; and is valuable as shewing the state of the controversy with the Jews in the time of Justin.ⁿ

¹ cc. 81—84.

² cc. 85—89.

³ *Dial.* p. 349. C. *Apol.* c. 84.

^m *H. E.* iv. 18.

ⁿ There is a most clear and accurate analysis of the Dialogue with Trypho in the Bishop of Lincoln's Account of the Writings and Opinions of Justin Martyr, c. 11. and an English translation of the Dialogue by Henry Brown, M.A. London, 1735.

Justin wrote also a second *Apology*, which, in the Paris Edition, is denominated the first. According to Eusebius,^o it was addressed to Marcus Antoninus. Others suppose that it, as well as the preceding, was presented to Antoninus Pius. From expressions in the second *Apology*, Eusebius^p and others have concluded that it was written by Justin not long before his martyrdom.

The beginning of the second *Apology* is believed to be lost: and it is in other respects imperfect. Several Christians had at that time been unjustly punished, and Justin presented the *Apology* in their defence; urging several of the arguments which he had used in the first *Apology*, and replying to objections advanced by the adversaries of Christianity.

There are several other writings attributed to Justin Martyr. Of these, the fragment *de Monarchia Dei* is believed to be genuine. There are doubts of the genuineness of the *Hortatory Address to the Greeks*.^q

The ardent spirit of Justin Martyr was likely to draw upon him the indignation of those who

^o H. E. iv. 16.

^p Eusebius, H. E. iv. 16. 17. Justin, *Apol.* ii. p. 46. E

^q See the Bishop of Lincoln's Account of Justin Martyr, p. 5.

opposed Christianity; and especially of the philosophers, whose malice, as we have seen, he anticipated. Accordingly, soon after the publication of his second *Apology*, about the year 165, Justin and six of his companions were brought before Rusticus, prefect of Rome. The behaviour of Justin in the hour of danger was worthy of the professions which he had previously made. He refused to worship the gods of the Romans, avowed his faith in the doctrines of Christianity, and at once declared where it was that he had been accustomed to teach the Christian religion. When threatened with torture and death, unless he sacrificed to the gods, Justin expressed his full conviction of eternal happiness, if he continued stedfast in the faith, and his determination patiently to endure all things for the sake of his Lord and Saviour. His companions assented to these courageous sentiments: and they were all immediately led back to prison, where, after they had been scourged, they were beheaded.

We can only briefly touch upon the doctrines and opinions which are maintained by Justin in his first *Apology*. Those who wish for an accurate statement of his sentiments, as deduced from a minute examination of all his genuine works

should consult the Bishop of Lincoln's admirable work upon the subject.

We find Justin distinctly acknowledging the Divinity of our Lord, representing the object of Christian worship to be the Father, the Creator of all things; the Divine Word, who took our nature upon him, and died upon the cross for our sake; and the Holy Spirit.¹ He maintains also the absolute Divinity of Jesus Christ, when he states, that it was He, who appeared to Moses in the bush, and described himself as the eternal and self-existing God;² and he styles Him directly God.³

Justin does not express himself very clearly respecting the effect which the fall of man produced upon his capacity of choosing good and evil. He describes⁴ the human race as having been created "intelligent, and able to choose the truth and to be happy." But he speaks "of that proneness to evil, which, although various in its kind, exists in every man,"⁵ after the fall; and contrasts our first birth, in which "we were born without our knowledge or consent, by the ordinary natural

¹ cc. 6. 16. 77. 85. 87. See note (k,) p. 178.

² c. 82. 83.

³ c. 83. p. 270.

⁴ c. 36.

⁵ c. 10.

means, and were brought up in evil habits," with the condition of those who by baptism "become the children of choice and judgment," and "obtain in the water remission of the sins which they have before committed."^y

Justin is scarcely more explicit upon this point, or upon the subject of grace, in other parts of his works,^z although he declares the necessity of illumination from above to be enabled rightly to understand the Holy Scriptures.

It must be remembered, however, that the subject of his writings, which was, in his *Apologies*, to defend the Christians from the charges advanced against them by the heathen, and, in his *Dialogue with Trypho*, to controvert the objections of the Jews, did not lead him to speak upon these subjects otherwise than incidentally; and that his expressions must be considered with reference rather to the whole context in which they are found, than to the words which he employs in any particular instance.

The manner in which Justin treats the difficulty of reconciling the foreknowledge of God with the moral responsibility of man, may be seen in

^y c. 80.

^z See Bp. Kaye's *Justin*, p. 75.

several passages^a of the Apology. He says^b that God delayed the punishment of the Devil, since he foreknew that some who are not yet born should be saved: but that this foreknowledge does not imply that every thing takes place by irresistible necessity.^c

With respect to the doctrine of Justification, Justin in this Apology^d declares that Christ "cleansed by his blood those who believe in him :" and in other parts of his works^e constantly refers to the merits and death of Christ as the cause, and to faith as the means, by which we are justified.

When Justin speaks in his own person, he invariably maintains that the punishment of the wicked will be eternal.^f

Justin Martyr, in the course of his first Apology, refers, on three different occasions, to the Memoirs^g of the Apostles, and in the second of those instances calls the work to which he alludes Gospels. In his Dialogue with Trypho he twice^h quotes "the Gospel;" and in several placesⁱ re-

^a cc. 54—58. ^b c. 36. ^c c. 54. ^d c. 41.

^e See Dial. p. 229. E. 234. E. 259. A. 273. E. 322. E. 323. B. 338. D.

^f See note (p) p. 182.

^g ἀπομνημονεύματα, cc. 43. 86. 87. ^h p. 227. C. 326. E.

ⁱ p. 327. B. 328. B. 329. C. 331. B. D. 332. B. 333. B. D. E. 334. B.

fers to the Memoirs of the Apostles. In several of these passages he refers to words which are found in substance in our present Gospels. Justin describes these Memoirs as having been written by the Apostles and those who followed them,^k a description which exactly corresponds with our present Gospels, two of which were written by Apostles, and two by those who attended the Apostles. He mentions also that these writings were publicly read in the solemn assemblies of the Christians, with the Scriptures of the Old Testament, as part of their religious service.^l

“Upon the whole,” says Lardner,^m “it must be plain to all, that he owned and had the greatest respect for the four Gospels, written, two of them, by Apostles, and the other two by companions and followers of the Apostles of Jesus Christ; that is, by Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.”

The Bishop of Lincolnⁿ examines at length the question which has been lately raised, whether

^k Dial. p. 331. D. ἐν γὰρ τοῖς ἀπομημονεύμασιν, ᾧ φημι ὑπὸ τῶν Ἀποστόλων αὐτοῦ καὶ τῶν ἐκείνοις παρακολουθάντων συντετάχθαι. Compare Luke i. 3. “Ἐδοξε κἀμοὶ παρηκολούθηκότι ἀνθεν κ. τ. λ.

^l Apol. c. 87. ^m Credibility, Part II. c. 10. § 3.

ⁿ Account of Justin Martyr, c. 8.

Justin quoted our present Gospels; and, after referring to the several passages in which Justin mentions the Memoirs of the Apostles, observes, “the inference which I am disposed to draw from the consideration of the above passages is, not that Justin quoted a Narrative of our Saviour’s life and ministry agreeing in substance with our present Gospels, though differing from them in expression: but that he quoted our present Gospels from memory.”—“It is moreover necessary always to bear in mind, as has been already observed, that Justin does not appeal to the New Testament as an authority: he wishes merely to give a true representation of the doctrines and precepts of the Gospel: and for this purpose it was sufficient to express the meaning without any scrupulous regard to verbal accuracy.”

Justin in his Apology has but few references to the other books of the New Testament. In c. 63, where he states that the Jews, who had the prophecies, and always expected the Christ to come, not only were ignorant of him, but evil entreated him, he probably alludes to Acts xiii. 27. And in c. 82, he says that Jesus is called “the Apostle,” an appellation which is given to him only in Heb. iii. 1, 2.

Lardner shews, however, that Justin, in other parts of his works, recognizes the Acts of the Apostles; the Epistle to the Romans; the Epistles to the Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians: the second Epistle to the Thessalonians; the Epistle to the Hebrews, and the second Epistle of Peter.

It is remarkable that the only Book which Justin expressly quotes^o is the Revelation, which he ascribes to the Apostle St. John.

The most interesting part of Justin's Apology is, doubtless, the picture which he draws of the condition of the primitive Church in his time. He appeals to the change which had been wrought in those who had embraced the Christian faith.^p He refers directly and indirectly to the fact, that they were exposed to grievous persecution, and subject to the most atrocious calumnies; yet declares that they bore all evils with patience, not even demanding that their false accusers should be punished.^q But while the believers were harassed from without, they enjoyed the privileges of Christian communion within the pale of the Church. They still

^o Dial. p. 308. B. Eusebius mentions this quotation, H. E. iv. 18.

^p c. 20.

^q c. 7.

continued to address one another by the apostolic title of brethren,' and assembled every Sunday, whether they dwelt in towns or in the country, for the purpose of public worship. Their religious services consisted in hearing the Gospels and the Scriptures of the Old Testament read and expounded. The President then delivered a discourse; and after they had all stood up together to pray, the Eucharist, of bread and wine mixed with water, was administered to each: and a contribution was made for the use of the fatherless and widows, for such as were in necessity, or in bonds.

Such is the picture of the Christian Church drawn by one who had tried what the systems of heathen philosophy could do to satisfy the anxious enquiries of his mind after spiritual things, and found them all insufficient; who dared to stand forth as the advocate of the cause of the Gospel, when to profess the faith was to expose himself to immediate persecution; and soon afterwards proved the sincerity of his profession by the sacrifice of his life.

TERTULLIAN.

QUINTUS SEPTIMIUS FLORENS TERTULLIANUS, as he is usually called, was born at Carthage, about the year 150. His father was a soldier, a

centurion in constant attendance upon the Proconsul of Africa. Tertullian is believed to have been a Gentile: and the supposition is favoured by several passages of his works^a in which he seems to describe himself as having been among those whose errors he exposes. His education appears to have extended to every kind of literature which was studied at the period in which he lived. His knowledge of the Greek language is evident from the fact of his having composed^b three treatises in it, which are now lost. And the quotations with which his works abound imply a wide range of knowledge in poetry, natural philosophy, and medical science. Eusebius^c observes that he was particularly well skilled in the Roman laws, as is indicated indeed by his familiar use of legal terms. His ability and learning were always highly celebrated. Jerome informs us^d that Cyprian never passed a day without reading some of the works of Tertullian, whom he called “his master.”

Jerome also says that Tertullian was a Presbyter; and it is believed that he held that office

^a Apol. c. 18. p. 362. De Pœnitentiâ, c. 1. De Fugâ in Persecut. c. 6. Adv. Marcion. iii. c. 21.

^b De Coronâ, c. 6. De Baptismo, c. 19. De Resurrectione Carnis. c. 49.

^c H. E. ii. 2.

^d Catalogus Scriptorum Eccles.

in the Church of Rome. That he was a married man is known from the writings which he has left, addressed to his wife.

Whether Tertullian were educated as a Christian, or converted after he had reached a mature age, the number of his works shews that he was a most zealous and active defender of the opinions which he embraced. It would be difficult to point out a writer whose style of thought and expression is so peculiar as Tertullian's. He pours forth with profusion, and with little discrimination, the varied stores of acquired knowledge with which his mind was enriched; displaying unrivalled keenness of sarcasm, and great brilliancy of imagination. Yet with these advantages he could scarcely have been an attractive writer, even to those who were familiar with his frequent and pointed allusions to facts now little known.

His style is thus described with great accuracy and discrimination by one who is peculiarly well qualified for forming a correct opinion upon such a subject. "He frequently hurries his hearers along by his vehemence, and surprises them by the vigour, as well as inexhaustible fertility of his imagination: but his copiousness is without selection, and there was in his character a propensity to exaggeration.

which affected his language, and rendered it inflated and unnatural. He is indeed the harshest and most obscure of writers, and the least capable of being accurately represented in a translation.”^c

Still, there is in the writings of Tertullian a manly vigour of conception and a vivacity of expression, which amply repay the labour which must be undergone in order to comprehend them.

Jerome, in his account of Tertullian, asserts that he was driven to embrace the errors of Montanus, in consequence of the contumelious treatment of the Romish Clergy. The year 199 is usually assigned as the probable period of this remarkable change in Tertullian’s views. From a passage in his works,^f it is evident that he was attached to that sect before the year 207, the fifteenth year of the Emperor Severus. The greater part of his writings, which have been preserved, were composed after he became a Montanist.^g Whether his Apology was one of these is doubted. The subject of that address did not call upon him to profess

^c Bishop of Lincoln’s Tertullian, c. 1. p. 66.

Lactantius, v. 1. says, *Septimus quoque Tertullianus fuit omni genere literarum peritus, sed in eloquendo parum facilis, et minus comptus, et multum obscurus fuit.*

^f Adv. Marcion i. cc. 15. 63.

^g See Bp. of Lincoln’s Tertullian, c. 1. p. 61.

any of the peculiar opinions of that sect; and the marks of time which are found in it have led to different conclusions respecting its date. Mosheim, in his Dissertation on the date of this Apology,^h fixes on the year 198. Du Pin assigns it to the year 200, and conceives that it was written before Tertullian embraced the opinions of Montanus. Tillemont is in favour of the same date. Cave and Dodwell think that it was composed in 202, Basnage in 203, Pagi in 205, Scaliger in 211, and Allix assigns so late a date as 217.

The Bishop of Lincoln,ⁱ after observing that “the allusion to conspiracies which were daily detected at the very time when the book was written,^k as well as the enumeration of the barbarous nations^l which either then were, or had recently been, at war with Rome, correspond to the events which took place during the reign of Severus,” suggests that the work may with probability be referred to about the year 204.

The Apology was written at Carthage, and addressed to the governors of Proconsular Africa.^m The Christians, at the time in which it was writ-

^h *Disquisitio Chronologico-critica de verâ ætate Apologetici à Tertulliano Conscripti.* Lug. Bat. 1720.

ⁱ Tertullian, c. 1. p. 53.

^k c. 35.

^l c. 37.

^m See note (a) p. 280.

ten, were exposed to great sufferings, as well from the unrestrained violence of the people, as from the action of laws which were still in force.ⁿ “How frequently,” he says,^o “do ye use violence against the Christians, sometimes at the instigation of private malice, and sometimes according to the forms of law. How often also—not to mention yourselves—do the common people in their rage attack us of their own accord with stones and flames:” and, in another place,^p “there are no greater persecutors of the Christians than the vulgar.” Their general insecurity was increased when the governor of the province in which they lived was cruel or rapacious; and on the other hand, they enjoyed a temporary security, if, from a sense of justice or the feelings of humanity, he chanced to treat them with indulgence.

The Christians at Carthage were not thus favoured. Just before the period at which Tertullian’s *Apology* was written, the governors had proceeded with great severity against some members of their own families,^q in consequence of their professing the Christian faith. And, the way of public justice being obstructed, Tertullian was anxious

ⁿ See note (b) p. 297.

^p c. 35.

^o *Apol.* c. 37. p. 430.

^q *Apol.* c. 1.

that the truth might still be presented to the governors, by the means of a written Apology.

He demands, therefore, that before the Christians are condemned, they may be allowed to answer for themselves; alleging, with great truth, that the refusal to hear them was a tacit confession that the charges against them were unfounded.¹ He shews that all other criminals, however guilty, enjoy every legal privilege: are heard in their own defence, and permitted to have an advocate to plead their cause. He dwells upon the injustice and contradictory character of the edict of Trajan; and complains that while others are tortured only to compel them to confess their guilt, the Christians are racked, to force them to deny the charge of which they are accused.²

Tertullian then appeals to the indirect testimony which even their adversaries bore to the strictly moral conduct which characterized those who were converted to Christianity: and obviates an objection which was brought against the very name which they bore.³ He shews, by examples of recent changes in the laws, that those which existed against the Christians might be also abro-

¹ c. 1.

² c. 2.

³ c. 3.

gated;^u that those sanguinary laws had been invariably proposed by Emperors of the most cruel
v and unjust character, while the mild and just princes had favoured the Christians.^x But Tertullian is not contented with resting merely on the defensive. He makes vigorous attacks upon his adversaries themselves; and shews in a strain of bitter satire how much the subjects of the Roman Empire had degenerated from their ancestors.^y

He next notices the horrible calumnies which were circulated respecting the Christians,—such as the murder of children, and incest—shews that they originate in nothing but mere common report,^z and are utterly incredible and false.^a On this point also Tertullian assails his opponents, and shews that the abominations and cruelties of heathen nations might make them credit such unnatural charges, although the purity of life which marked the Christians, was a complete proof of their innocence of these specific crimes.^b Another frequent accusation against the Christians, was that they refused to worship the gods of the heathen, and to offer sacrifice for the safety of the Emperors. This charge Tertullian repels by at once shewing that

^u c. 4.

^v c. 5.

^w c. 6.

^x c. 7.

^y c. 8.

^z c. 9.

the gods so worshipped were merely men, to whom, after their death, divine honours were paid:^c and argues closely and forcibly that the supposition, that they were deified, necessarily implies the existence of some Supreme Deity, who had the power of conferring so high a privilege: that He could have no need of such agents, and would never have extended his favour to such unworthy objects.^d

Tertullian proceeds to shew the absurdity of idol-worship,^e and the indignity with which the heathens themselves treated their divinities, by making them the object of sale,^f defrauding them by the sacrifice of imperfect victims; degrading them by absurd fables;^g and making them the subject of ridicule in their dramatic exhibitions.^h

Tertullian, after refutingⁱ calumnies which were circulated respecting the object of Christian worship, declares, in a passage of great beauty,^k who the God is whom they adore: that He is one God, the Creator and sustainer of all things, immensely great, and, although faintly discernible in these his lowest works, yet fully intelligible to himself alone: that the soul of man itself, when not disturbed by any delusion, recognizes this

^c c. 10.^d c. 11.^e c. 12.^f c. 13.^g c. 14.^h c. 15.ⁱ c. 16.^k c. 17.

One God, by the phrases which it involuntarily uses, as “God knows,” “I leave it to God,” and the like. He shews that God had from the beginning made known his will, by inspiring the prophets with his Holy Spirit; and that the writings of those prophets still remained, both in the original Hebrew and in the Greek translation.¹

Tertullian advances the high antiquity of Moses, and the priority of the prophets to the heathen philosophers, as an argument of the superiority of the doctrines contained in the Scriptures of the Old Testament;^m and refers to the prophecies, which had been fulfilled and were fulfilling, as a proof of the inspiration of Scripture.ⁿ

Such having been the origin of the Jewish religion, Tertullian shews in what manner the Christian religion is founded upon it, and connected with it by a chain of prophecy. He declares that Jesus Christ was the Son of God; and endeavours to illustrate the manner of his generation, by a comparison with the procession of a ray of light from a luminous body. He shews that the miracles of Christ proved him to be the Word of God: declares that his sufferings and death were voluntary, the fulfilment of his own predictions:

¹ c. 18.

^m c. 19.

ⁿ c. 20.

and appeals to the annals of the Roman Empire in attestation of the miraculous darkness at the crucifixion. Tertullian relates the resurrection and ascension of Christ; and asserts that Pontius Pilate sent a written account of those transactions to Tiberius. He makes a strong appeal to the testimony which the Christians gave even unto death; and desires to put the question upon the issue whether the divinity of Christ be real or not.^o

After this, Tertullian declares his opinions respecting the existence and employment of evil spirits, or demons:^p and demands that any one confessedly under the influence of demoniacal possession may be brought out before the tribunal; and promises that, at the bidding of any Christian, the demon shall depart.^q

Tertullian then shows how unjustly the Christians are treated, since, when all others are permitted to choose their own divinities for worship, the Christians alone are prevented.^r

An objection was sometimes brought against Christianity, that the prosperity which the Roman empire had attained was a proof of the Divine favour. Tertullian meets that objection by shewing that the worship which the Romans paid to

^o c. 21.

^p c. 22.

^q c. 23.

^r c. 24.

many of their deities was not established till long after their power had greatly increased; and that
v their conquests, which spared not the temples more than the houses of the vanquished, ought rather to have brought down upon them the vengeance of the gods, had they been really divine.^{*} This therefore was rather an argument in favour of the existence of One Supreme God, who governs the whole world.^t

Tertullian then refers to a temptation to which Christians were sometimes exposed, by their adversaries suggesting that they might outwardly comply with the rites of heathenism, while they mentally retained their own sentiments. He rejects such a notion with disdain, as unworthy of a true Christian, and as a suggestion of evil spirits.^u He shows, that although the Christians refused to sacrifice for the emperors, which was, in the eyes of their accusers, a worse offence than neglecting the worship of idols, they acted with a proper sense of the dignity of the Emperor, in not subjecting him to his inferiors:^x but that they did pray for the safety of the Emperor, not to dumb idols, but to the living God, lifting up holy hands, and beseech-

^{*} c. 25.

^t c. 26.

^u c. 27.

^x cc. 28, 29.

ing him to grant to the Emperor a happy reign and a long life, with all prosperity for himself and his people;^a and that in so doing they fulfilled the commands given them in the Word of God, their Scriptures.^b Another reason for their praying for the safety of the Emperor was their conviction ^cthat the day of judgment was delayed only by the continuance of the Roman Empire.^d

While the Christians revered the Emperor as their sovereign, they paid him greater honour than if they flattered him with a title to which he had no claim; a title which the best of Emperors refused to receive.^b

Tertullian then exposes the folly of shewing loyalty to the Emperor by rioting and festivity; when the conspiracies which were daily occurring shewed that this attachment was merely feigned.^c

The Christians, on the other hand, are required to do good to all men, and therefore especially to the Sovereign: they are bound to love their enemies, and the proof that they do so is found in their forbearance, when their numbers are already so great that, if they chose, they might set the empire at defiance, or destroy it effectually

^a c. 30.

^b c. 31.

^c c. 32.

^b cc. 33, 34.

^c c. 35.

by merely withdrawing themselves to some distant part of the world.^d

- * The innocent lives of the Christians furnish another reason for their being leniently treated.^e

In the concluding part of the *Apology*, Tertullian gives an instructive and interesting account of the Christian Church in his time. He describes their meeting for the purposes of prayer, for reading the Holy Scriptures, and receiving instruction: their government, under the presidency of “certain approved elders, who have obtained that honour not by purchase but by public testimony:” and their monthly or occasional contributions for the relief of the aged and destitute. He dwells upon the exemplary love which the Christians displayed towards one another; and alludes to the temperate banquets which they held in common, seasoned with holy conversation, and sanctified with prayer.^f

Notwithstanding their blameless lives, Tertullian shews that every national calamity, the overflowing of the waters of the Tiber or the failure of those of the Nile, were all attributed to the Christians: yet nothing could be more absurd than such an accusation; since, as he had before shewn,

^d c. 36.

^e c. 38.

^f c. 39.

the like calamities occurred before the Christian religion began;^c and the Romans themselves were more truly the cause of such misfortunes, since they despised the true God, and worshipped images. The temporal dispensations of Providence, however, form no sure mark of the favour or anger of God. The troubles of the world are sent for the purpose of admonition as well as of punishment.^d

Another accusation against the Christians was that they were unfit for the ordinary business of life. Tertullian refutes this charge, by shewing that they refused compliance with no innocent custom; and were useless to none but to those whose occupations were disgraceful.^e The records of the courts of justice would prove that no Christian was ever accused of a crime.^f This freedom from open guilt arose from the superiority which divine laws possess over those which are of human invention.^g

There were others who represented Christianity as merely a system of philosophy. Had this been the case, Tertullian argues that those who professed it were entitled to the same tolerance as was

^c c. 40.

^b c. 41.

¹ cc. 42, 43.

^d c. 44.

¹ c. 45.

extended to other philosophers. But Christianity's morality is superior to any philosophy in morality, is it not plain now?³ Indeed, the poets and philosophers of old were indebted to Christianity for many of their tenets, which they borrowed without acknowledgment, and best suited to serve their own party ends.⁴ The early fathers were permitted to add their brethren, such as that of the transmission of souls, without any interference; while Christians were punished for believing the resurrection. Tertullian argues that a resurrection is necessary, in order that man should be judged in the same body which had been the instrument of his sins; that it is not so incredible, that a body should be restored to life, as that it should have been formed at first; and that this restoration is rendered highly probable by the analogy with many changes in the natural world. Thus the succession of day and night, the order of the seasons, the decay and growth of the seed in the earth, are all emblems of a resurrection. Tertullian anticipates the objection,—that these vicissitudes would rather imply a succession of changes from death to life, than a single death followed by an unchangeable eternity,—by observing, that

" c. 46.

" c. 47.

had such been the will of God, man must have submitted: but that the word of God establishes the fact that there shall be one final resurrection of all mankind; after which the righteous shall be for ever clothed upon with immortality in the presence of God; and the wicked shall be consigned to everlasting punishment.^o

It is, then, most unreasonable that the Christians should be punished for maintaining opinions, which, if sincerely entertained, must make them better members of society; while tenets, for which the philosophers are indebted to their imitation of Christianity, are eulogized as the highest attainments of human wisdom. Christians suffer for their religion; but they suffer voluntarily; choosing rather to be condemned by men than to fail in their duty towards God.^p

Tertullian answers an objection, which the patience of the Christians might suggest, that they really took delight in the sufferings which they endured with so great fortitude. He observes that Christians did, indeed, submit to persecution: but they did it with the feelings of a soldier whose duty called upon him to expose his life. He would gladly escape the peril, although, when

^o c. 48.

^p c. 49.

necessary, he shrinks not from it. Yet this contempt of pain and death, which is eulogized in patriots and philosophers, when practised by Christians is derided and despised. Tertullian, in conclusion, defies the utmost malice of the enemies of the faith: declaring that, if they were bent on destroying Christianity, their attempt would be fruitless: and that the example of patience, exhibited by those who were called to suffer, was the most convincing argument of the truth of their religion.^q

There is no record of the effect which this Apology produced. It was, however, most highly prized by Christians in all ages. It was at an early period translated into Greek, and is the only writing of Tertullian which is expressly quoted by Eusebius.^r Cyprian not only looked up to Tertullian as his master, and frequently copied him, but especially in his *Treatise de Idolorum Vanitate*, closely imitated parts of Tertullian's Apology.

The object of Tertullian in this Apology did not lead him to make frequent mention of the Scriptures of the New Testament. We find him, however, referring to them on several occasions

^q c. 50.

^r H. E. ii. 2.

under the title of "Scriptures," and "Holy Scriptures," appealing to them as "the Word of God, our Scriptures," open and accessible to all; and declaring that one of the principal objects of the Christians publicly assembling was to read the Scriptures.^a

In the passage^x in which an appeal is made to the Scriptures, Tertullian quotes words now found in the Gospels of St. Matthew and St. Luke: and others which are in substance written in the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans, the first Epistle to Timothy, the Epistle to Titus, and the first Epistle of St. Peter.

There is probably also an allusion to the first Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians;^y and to the Epistle to the Hebrews.^z

In other parts of his writings, the testimony of Tertullian to the inspiration^a and sufficiency^b of

^a c. 22. p. 380. *Apud literas sanctas ordine cognoscitur,*
c. 23. p. 391. *Ipsi literarum nostrarum fidem accidunt.*

^b c. 31. p. 414. *Inspice Dei voces, literas nostras, quas neque ipsi supprimimus, et plerique casus ad extraneos referunt.*

^a c. 39. p. 436. *Coimus ad literarum divinarum commemorationem.*

^x c. 31. p. 414.

^y c. 12. p. 340. Compare c. 10. p. 329.

^z c. 30. p. 412.

^a *Adv. Marcion.* v. c. 7. *De Animâ*, c. 2.

^b *Contra Hermogenem*, c. 22. *Adoro Scripturæ plenitudinem.*

the Holy Scriptures, his frequent quotation of the books of the New Testament, his reference to four Gospels, and no more, written by Apostles or apostolic men,^c and the deference which he always pays to the Holy Scriptures, render his works most valuable as tending to prove the genuineness and integrity of the Scriptures of the New Testament. So copious are these allusions, that Lardner remarks,^d “there are perhaps more and larger quotations of the small volume of the New Testament, in this one Christian author, than of all the works of Cicero, though of so uncommon excellence for thought and style, in the writers for several ages.”

Tertullian's *Apology* contains very interesting information respecting the condition of the Christian Church, especially in Africa, in the second and third centuries. He bears testimony to the wide diffusion of Christianity in his time;^e and shews that the Christians were distinguished, both by themselves and by their adversaries, for their mutual love.^f Their harmless and tranquil life;^g

^c *Adv. Marcion.* iv. c. 2. 5.

^d *Credibility*, Part II. 27. 23.

^e cc. 1. 37.

^f c. 39.

^g c. 42.

their habits of domestic piety ; their constant use of prayer, in private and in public ;^b their charity towards all men, their love of their enemies,^c their patience under persecution and distress,^k complete a picture which is the more striking when contrasted with the scene which the pagan world presented at the same time. The character of Tertullian himself is a proof of the power of religion : no other influence could have subdued the fiery spirit of such a man.

The Apology forms so small a portion of Tertullian's works, that any conclusions from it, respecting the doctrine of the Church in his time, would be very incomplete, unless supported by numerous references to his other writings.

The limits of this Introduction will not admit of so extended an examination ; and the task has been lately performed with such accuracy and judgment by the learned Bishop of Lincoln, that any further labours in the same field would be superfluous.

Little is necessary to be said of the remaining part of Tertullian's life. At a period, which was either a little before, or soon after, the publication

^b cc. 30. 39.

^c cc. 31. 37.

^k cc. 37. 50.

of his *Apology*, he avowed himself a follower of Montanus. The harsh and ascetic tenets of that visionary heretic agreed with the naturally austere character of Tertullian. But his defection was in matters rather of discipline than of faith: and in the latter period of his life he again seceded from the Montanists, and founded a sect, called after his name, Tertullianists. The remnants of this sect continued to exist after his death till they were finally dispersed by Augustin.¹

The period of Tertullian's death is unknown. Jerome informs us that he lived to a great age, and the year 220 is usually assigned. There is every reason to believe that he died a natural death.

The heretical opinions of Tertullian doubtless threw a cloud over his fame; but they were not able to eclipse the reputation which his great talents, piety, and learning, had deservedly acquired. Hence, even those who blamed his errors united in paying a just tribute to his sincerity and great mental endowments. The character given to him by Vincentius Lirinensis, in the fifth century, may be taken as a proof of the great estimation in

¹ *Augustin de Hæres*, c. 86.

which he was held. It is conceived in terms of high panegyric: but the context shews that it was written by one, who was as sensible of the errors as of the excellencies of Tertullian. After having shewn the dangerous innovations which Origen introduced, he describes Tertullian, notwithstanding his erroneous opinions, as far superior to all the Latin Christian writers. "Who," says he, "ever excelled him in learning? who had greater proficiency in all knowledge, sacred and profane? His astonishing capacity embraced in its comprehensive grasp all the various branches and sects of philosophy, the original founders and supporters of the different schools, and the course of discipline adopted by each, together with a wide range of history and other studies. Such also was the vigour and force of his intellect, that, whatever position he attacked, he either penetrated it by his subtlety, or crushed it with the weight of his reasoning. The peculiar character of his style surpasses all praise. The arguments are connected in so indissoluble a chain of reasoning, as to compel the assent of those who would not be persuaded: every word is a sentence; every sentence a victory over his adversaries. The followers of Marcion, Apelles, Praxeas, and Hermogenes; the

Jew, the Gentile, the Gnostic, had full experience of this: against all their blasphemies he hurled the ponderous masses of his voluminous works, and overthrew them, as with a thunderbolt.”^m

With respect to the present translations, it has already been observed, that the Epistles of Clement, Polycarp, and Ignatius, and the accounts of the Martyrdom of the two last, are in substance taken from Archbishop Wake’s Version. The language of that version has been happily styled by Lardner “Apostolical English:” and it would have been a needless affectation of originality to have

^m Sed et Tertulliani quoque eadem ratio est. Nam sicut ille (Origenes) apud Græcos, ita hic apud Latinos nostrorum omnium facile princeps judicandus est. Quid enim hoc viro doctius? quid in divinis atque humanis rebus exercitatus? Nempe omnem Philosophiam et cunctas philosophorum sectas, auctores adsertoresque sectarum, omnesque eorum disciplinas, omnem historiarum ac studiorum varietatem, mirâ quâdam mentis capacitate complexus est. Ingenio verò nonne tam gravi ac vehementi excelluit, ut nihil sibi pâne ad expugnandum proposuerit, quod non aut acumine intruperit, aut pondere eliserit? Jam porro orationis suæ laudes quis exequi valeat? quæ tantâ nescio quâ rationum necessitate conserta est, ut ad consensum sui, quos suadere non potuerit, impellat. Cujus quot pâne verba, tot sententiæ sunt; quot sensus, tot victoriæ. Sciunt hoc Marciones, Apelles, Praxeæ, Hermogenes, Judæi, Gentiles, ceterique quorum ille blasphemias multis ac magnis voluminum suorum molibus, velut quibusdam fulminibus evertit.

Vincentius Lirinensis Commonitorium, Lib. i. c. 26.

injured, by any unnecessary alteration, what had already been expressed so faithfully and so well. My first intention was to have simply reprinted those Epistles, with such illustrations as they might seem to require. A comparison of the present translation with that of Archbishop Wake will shew that, with the exception of the quotations, his version has been here closely, but not servilely, followed.

In translating the Apologies of Justin Martyr and Tertullian, my object has been to express with fidelity the sentiments of the originals, in such a manner as to be intelligible to a reader who may not be able to consult the original works. Those who are best acquainted with the nature of such a task will be the most lenient in overlooking any harshness or want of fluency, which, in such a translation, it is so difficult to avoid. The version of Tertullian is necessarily more paraphrastic than that of Justin, in order to render intelligible the brief allusions and sudden transitions which characterize his style. Should there be any instances in which I have not succeeded in representing the sense of Tertullian, I would willingly refer to the character of his writings.

which has before been quoted, that “he is indeed the harshest and most obscure of writers; and the least capable of being accurately represented in a translation.”

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5. Note q, *for* 1 Kings xix. *read* 1 Sam. xix.
7. Note x, *for* Gen. ii. 22, *read* Gen. ii. 23.
9. Note i, *for* Isai. ii. 23, *read* James ii. 23.
16. Note e, *add* Hieron. ad Isa. c. lii. Opera, Tom. iii. p. 382.
19. Line 3, *for* Daniel, *read* David.
Note r, *add* Compare Acts xiii. 22, 1 Sam. xiii. 14.
26. Note d, line 12, 15, *for* Camis *read* Carnis.
28. Note m, *omit* Rom. ix. 19, 20.
46. Note l, *for* Wisdom vi. 35, *read* Wisdom vi. 25.
51. Note t, *for* Ex. iv. *read* Ex. xiv.
61. Line 1, *for* chosen, *read* truly chosen.
62. Line 2, *after* evil for evil, *insert* or railing for railing.
66. Line 2, *after* his own lusts, *insert* and says there is neither resurrection nor judgment.
69. Note s, *for* Ps. iv. 5, *read* Ps. iv. 4.
74. Note k, *for* Acts v. 26, *read* Acts v. 36.
83. Note k, *for* Ps. xliv. 8. cxxxii. 2, *read* Ps. xlv. 7. cxxxiii. 2.
85. Note p, *for* 1 Cor. xiv. 30, *read* 1 Cor. xiv. 36.
89. Line 7, *for* commandments, *read* commandment.
108. Note n, *for* Col. i. 21, *read* Phil. i. 21.
116. Note i, *for* Joh. ii. 8, *read* Joh. iii. 8.
177. Line 18, *after* death, *insert* as an atheist or impious.
183. Note n, *for* Isai. iv. 12—20, *read* Isai. xliv. 12—19.
194. Line 17, *for* place, *read* way.
194. Note b, *for* Matt. v. 15, *read* Matt. v. 16.
216. Line 3, *for* swine, *read* goats.
224. Note m, *for* Matt. i. 2, 3, *read* Matt. i. 23.
228. Note c, *for* Ps. xxi. 17, 19, *read* Ps. xxii. 16, 18.
244. Note s, *for* Isai. lx. 10, 11, 12, *read* Isai. lxiv. 10, 11, 12.
262. Line 1, *for* Timoëus, *read* Timæus.
Note k, line 4, *for* Timoëus, *read* Timæus.
299. Note c, *for* Acts xix. 25, *read* Acts xix. 35.
323. Line 10, *for* I refer the fables, *read* I refer to the fables.
340. Note c, *for* Baruch, vi. 19, *read* Baruch, vi. 22.
352. Line 4 from bottom, *for* kind, *read* kinds.
366. Line 6, *for* five hundred years, *read* five hundred years more.

THE
EPISTLE OF CLEMENT
TO THE
CORINTHIANS.

THE Church of God which is at Rome to the Church of God which is at Corinth, called, sanctified by the will of God, through our Lord Jesus Christ, grace to you and peace from Almighty God, through Jesus Christ, be multiplied.

1. THE sudden and repeated dangers and calamities which have befallen us, brethren, have, we fear, made us too slow in giving heed to those things which ye enquired of us, as well as to that wicked and detestable sedition, altogether unbecoming the elect of God, which a few hasty and selfwilled persons have excited to such a degree of madness, that your venerable and renowned name, so worthy of the love of all men, is thereby greatly blasphemed. For who that hath sojourned among you hath not experienced the firmness of your faith, and its fruitfulness in all good works? and admired the temper and moderation of your piety in Christ? and proclaimed the magnificent spirit of

A

your hospitality? and thought you happy in your perfect and certain knowledge (of the gospel)? For ye did all things without respect of persons; and walked according to the laws of God; being subject to those who had the rule over you; and giving to the elders among you the honour which was due. Young men ye commanded to think those things which are modest and grave. Women ye exhorted to perform all things with an unblameable, and seemly, and pure conscience; loving their own husbands as was fitting: ye taught them, also, to be subject to the rule of obedience, and to order their houses gravely with all discretion.

2. Ye were all of you humble minded,^a not boasting of any thing, desiring rather to be subject than to govern; to give, than to receive;^b being content with the portion which God had dispensed unto you: and hearkening diligently to his word, ye were enlarged in your bowels,^c having his sufferings always before your eyes. Thus a deep and fruitful peace^d was given to you all, and an insatiable desire of doing good; and a plentiful effusion of the Holy Ghost was

^a 1 Pet. v. 5.

^b Acts xx. 35.

^c 2 Cor. vi. 11, 12.

^d εἰρήνη βαθεῖα καὶ λιπαρά.

The metaphor appears to refer to a soil which is deep and fertile. Thus Chrysostom Hom. 52 on Genesis—εἴδοτες ὅτι οὐ κατὰ πετρῶν σπείρομεν, ἀλλ' εἰς λιπαρὰν καὶ βαθύγεων καταβάλλομεν τὰ σπέρματα. Vol. i. p. 420. 37. Savile.

upon all of you. And, being full of holy counsel, ye did, with great readiness of mind, and religious confidence, stretch forth your hands to Almighty God, beseeching him to be merciful, if in any thing ye had unwillingly sinned. Ye contended day and night for the whole brotherhood, that with compassion and a good conscience the number of his elect might be saved. Ye were sincere and without offence: not mindful of injuries one towards another. All sedition and all schism was an abomination unto you. Ye mourned over the sins of your neighbours, esteeming their defects your own. Ye were kind one to another without grudging; ready to every good work. Ye were adorned with a conversation entirely virtuous and religious; and did all things in the fear of God. The commandments of the Lord were written upon the tables of your heart.*

3. All honour and enlargement was given unto you. Then was fulfilled that which is written: "My beloved did eat and drink, he was enlarged, and waxed fat, and kicked."¹ Hence arose envy, and strife, and sedition; persecution and disorder, war and captivity. Thus they that were of no renown lifted up themselves against the honourable; those of no reputation

* Prov. vii. 3. 2 Cor. iii. 3.

¹ Deut. xxxii. 15.

against those that were in respect; the foolish against the wise; the young against the elders. Therefore righteousness and peace are departed from you, because every one of you hath forsaken the fear of God, and is become blind in his faith, and walks not by the rule of God's commandments, nor regulates himself as is fitting in Christ. But every one follows his own wicked lusts, having taken up unjust and wicked envy, by which even death entered into the world.

4. For thus it is written; "And it came to pass, after certain days, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the Lord. And Abel he also brought of the firstlings of his flock, and of the fat thereof. And God had respect unto Abel and unto his offering; but unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very sorrowful, and his countenance fell. And God said unto Cain, Why art thou sorrowful? And why is thy countenance fallen? If thou shalt offer aright, but not divide aright, hast thou not sinned? Hold thy peace.^s Unto thee shall be his desire; and thou shalt rule over him. And Cain said unto Abel his brother, Let us go aside into the field."^h

^s According to the version of the Septuagint. So Irenæus iv. 34.

^h The Samaritan Pentateuch, Septuagint, Vulgate and other Versions supply these words, which are wanting in the Hebrew copies.

And it came to pass as they were in the field that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and slew him.¹ Ye see, brethren, envy and jealousy wrought the murder of a brother. Through envy, our father Jacob fled from the face of his brother Esau.² Envy caused Joseph to be persecuted even unto death, and to come into bondage.³ Envy compelled Moses to flee from the face of Pharaoh king of Egypt; when he heard his own countryman say, Who made thee a judge and a ruler over us? wilt thou kill me, as thou killedst the Egyptian yesterday?⁴ Through envy, Aaron and Miriam⁵ were shut out of the camp.⁶ Envy sent Dathan and Abiram quick into the grave, because they raised up a sedition against Moses the servant of God.⁷ Through envy, David was not only hated of strangers, but persecuted even by Saul, the king of Israel.⁸

5. But, not to dwell upon ancient examples, let us come to those who in these last days have wrestled manfully for the faith; let us take the noble examples of our own age. Through envy and jealousy, the faithful and most righteous pillars of the Church have been persecuted even

¹ Gen. iv. 3—8.

² Gen. xxviii.

³ Gen. xxxvii.

⁴ Exod. ii. 14.

⁵ Miriam is said to have been shut out from the camp, Numb. xii. 14, 15, but not Aaron.

⁶ Num. xii. 14, 15.

⁷ Num. xvi. 33.

⁸ 1 Kings xix.

to the most dreadful deaths. Let us place before our eyes the good Apostles. Peter, by unjust envy, underwent not one or two but many labours; and thus having borne testimony unto death he went unto the place of glory which was due to him. Through envy, Paul obtained the reward of patience. Seven times was he in bonds; he was scourged; was stoned.^r He preached both in the east and in the west, leaving behind him the glorious report of his faith. And thus, having taught the whole world righteousness, and reached the furthest extremity of the west,^t he suffered martyrdom, by the command of the governors,^s and departed out of this world, and went to the holy place, having become a most exemplary pattern of patience.

6. To these holy apostles was added a great number of other godly men, who having through envy undergone many insults and tortures, have left a most excellent example to us. Through envy, women^u have been persecuted; and suffering grievous and unutterable torments, have finished the course of their faith with firmness,

^r 2 Cor. xi. 25.

^s See note (A) at the end of the Volume.

^t Probably of Fenius Rufus and Sofonius Tigellinus, the two praefects of the praetorian cohorts, appointed by Nero in the place of Burrus. Tacit. Annal. xiv. 51.

^u The words, "the Danaides and Dirce," here inserted, appear to be an interpolation.

and, though weak in body, have received a glorious reward. Envy hath alienated the minds of wives from their husbands, and changed that which was spoken by our father Adam, " This is now bone of my bone, and flesh of my flesh." * Envy and strife have overthrown great cities, and utterly rooted out mighty nations.

7. These things, beloved, we write unto you, not only to instruct you, but to remind ourselves: for we are enclosed in the same lists, and must engage in the same combat. Wherefore let us lay aside all vain and empty cares, and come up to the glorious and honourable rule of our holy calling. Let us consider what is good, and acceptable, and well pleasing in the sight of him that made us.^x Let us look stedfastly to the blood of Christ, and see how precious his blood is in the sight of God, which, being shed for our salvation, hath obtained the grace of repentance to the whole world. Let us look to all past generations, and learn that from age to age the Lord hath given place for repentance to all such as would turn to him. Noah preached repentance: and as many as hearkened to him were saved.^y Jonah^z denounced destruction against the Ninevites: and they, repenting of their sins, appeased the wrath of God by their prayers; and

* Gen. ii. 22.

^x 1 Tim. v. 4.

^y 2 Pet. ii. 5. Gen. vii.

^z Jon. iii. 5.

mises of God. For “(God) said to him: Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto a land which I will shew thee. And I will make thee a great nation: and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be blessed. And I will bless them that bless thee; and curse them that curse thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.”¹ And again, when he separated himself from Lot, God said unto him; “Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art, northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward. For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever. And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth; so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered.”²

And again he saith, “God brought forth Abraham and said unto him, Look now towards heaven and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them; so shall thy seed be. And Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him for righteousness.”³ Through faith and hospitality a son was given unto him in his old age: and through obedience he offered him up in

¹ Gen. xii. 1—3.

² Gen. xiii. 14—16.

³ Gen. xv. 5, 6. Rom. iv. 3.

sacrifice to God, upon one of the mountains which God shewed unto him.

11. By hospitality and godliness, Lot was saved out of Sodom, when all the country round about was punished with fire and brimstone: the Lord thereby making it manifest, that he will not forsake those that trust in him; but will bring to punishment and correction those who decline from his ways. For his wife, who went out with him, being of a different mind, and not continuing in the same obedience, was for that reason set forth for an example, and became a pillar of salt unto this day. That all men may know, that those who are double-minded, and distrustful of the power of God, are prepared for condemnation, and to be a sign to all generations.

12. By faith and hospitality was Rahab the harlot saved.^o For when the spies were sent by Joshua the son of Nun to search out Jericho, the king of the country knew that they were come to spy out his land, and sent men to take them and put them to death. But the hospitable Rahab received them; and hid them under the stalks of flax on the top of her house. And when the men that were sent by the king came unto her, and asked her, saying,^p There

^o Josh. ii.

^p Josh. ii. 3.

came men unto thee to spy out the land; bring them forth, for so hath the king commanded; she answered, The two men, whom ye seek, came in unto me, but presently they departed and are gone; not discovering them unto them. Then she said to the spies, I know that the Lord your God hath given you this city:^a for the fear of you, and the dread of you, is fallen upon all that dwell therein. When therefore ye shall have taken it, ye shall save me and my father's house.^b And they said unto her, It shall be as thou hast spoken unto us. Therefore when thou shalt know that we are near, thou shalt gather all thy family together upon the house-top, and they shall be saved; but all that shall be found without thy house shall be destroyed. Moreover they gave her a sign, that she should hang out of her house a (line of) scarlet (thread): shewing thereby, that by the blood of our Lord^c

^a Josh. ii. 9.

^b Josh. ii. 13.

^c Fanciful as the illustration here given may seem, it was a favourite notion of many of the early Christian writers. Justin Martyr, in his dialogue with Trypho, p. 338, says, "The sign of the scarlet thread, which the spies, sent from Joshua the son of Nun, gave to Rahab the harlot in Jericho, commanding her to hang it to the window by which she let them down that they might escape their enemies, was in like manner a sign of the blood of Christ, by which those of all nations, who were once harlots and sinners, are saved, receiving forgiveness of sins, and sinning no more." Irenæus Hæres. iv. 37. makes the same use of the history. "So also Rahab the harlot, although she condemned herself as a gentile and guilty

there should be redemption to all who believe and hope in God. Ye see, beloved, that there was not only faith, but prophecy also in this woman.

13. Let us, therefore, be humble minded, brethren, laying aside all pride, and boasting, and foolishness, and anger; and let us do as it is written. For thus saith the Holy Spirit; “Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom; nor the strong man in his strength, nor the rich man in his riches; but let him that glorieth glory in the Lord, to seek him, and to exercise judgment and righteousness.”¹ Above all, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, which he spake, teaching us gentleness and long suffering. For thus he said: “Be merciful, that ye may obtain mercy: forgive, that it may be forgiven unto you. As ye do, so shall it be done unto you: as ye give, so shall it be given unto you: as ye judge, so shall ye be judged:

guilty of all kinds of sin, did yet receive the three spies, who were searching the whole land, and hid them in her house, that is to say, the Father, and Son and Holy Ghost. And when all the city in which she dwelt had fallen in ruins, at the sound of the seven trumpets, Rahab the harlot was at the last saved, with all her house, by faith in the sign of the scarlet thread; as the Lord also said to the Pharisees, who received not his coming, and set at nought the crimson sign, which was the passover, the redemption and deliverance of the people out of Egypt, saying, the publicans and harlots go into the kingdom of heaven before you.”

Cotelerius refers to many other passages of the same kind.

¹ Jer. ix. 23. 1 Cor. i. 31.

as ye shew kindness, so shall kindness be shewed to you. With what measure ye mete, with the same shall it be measured to you." ^u By this command, and by these rules, let us establish ourselves, that so we may always walk obediently to his holy words, being humble-minded. For thus saith the holy word, "Upon whom shall I look, but upon him that is meek and quiet, and trembleth at my words." ^x

14. It is therefore just and holy, men and brethren, that we should become obedient unto God, rather than follow those who through pride and sedition have made themselves the leaders of a detestable emulation. For we shall undergo no ordinary harm, but exceedingly great danger, if we shall rashly give ourselves up to the wills of men, who are urgent in promoting strife and contention, to turn us aside from that which is good. Let us be kind to one another according to the compassion and sweetness of him that made us. For it is written, "The merciful shall inherit the earth; and they that are without evil shall be left upon it." ^y But the transgressors shall perish from off (the face of) it." And again he saith, "I have seen the wicked in great power, and spreading himself like the cedars of Libanus. And I passed by, and lo, he was not:

^u Luke vi. 36—38. Matt. vii. 1, 2—12.

^x Isai. lxvi. 2.

^y Ps. xxxvii. 9. Prov. ii. 21.

and I sought his place, but it could not be found. Keep innocency, and do the thing that is right; for there shall be a remnant to the peaceable man.”^a

15. Let us therefore hold fast to those who follow peace with godliness, and not to such as with hypocrisy pretend to desire it. For he saith in a certain place, “ This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me.”^b And again, “ They bless with their mouth, but curse with their heart.”^b And again he saith, “ They loved him with their mouth, and with their tongue they lied unto him. For their heart was not right with him, neither were they faithful in his covenant.”^c “ Let all deceitful lips become dumb, and the tongue that speaketh proud things. Who have said, with our tongue will we prevail; our lips are our own: who is Lord over us? For the oppression of the poor, for the sighing of the needy, now will I arise, saith the Lord: I will set him in safety: I will deal confidently with him.”^d

16. For Christ is theirs who are humble, not theirs who exalt themselves over his flock. The sceptre of the Majesty of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, came not in the pomp of pride and arro-

^a Ps. xxxvii. 35—37.

^a Isai. xxix. 13.

^b Ps. lxii. 4.

^c Ps. lxxviii. 36, 37.

^d Ps. xii. 4. xxxi. 18.

gance, although he was able (to have done so);^c but with humility, as the Holy Ghost had spoken concerning him.^f For thus he saith:^g “ Lord who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed? We have declared before him as (if he were) a child: as a root in a thirsty ground. For there is no form in him, nor glory. Yea we saw him, and he had no form nor comeliness: but his form was without honour, marred more than the sons of men. He is a man in stripes and sorrow, and acquainted with the endurance of infirmity. For his face was turned away; he was despised, and esteemed not. He beareth our sins, and is put to grief for us; and we did esteem him to be in sorrow, and in stripes, and in affliction. But he was wounded for our transgressions; and bruised for our iniquities. The chastisement of our peace was upon him; with his stripes we are healed. All we, like sheep, have gone astray: man hath gone astray in his way; and the Lord hath given him up for our sins; and he opened not his mouth through his suffering. He was led as a sheep to the slaughter, and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth.

^c Jerome, who translated this Epistle into Latin, appears to have read καὶ περ πάντα ἀνημένος, ‘although he was able to do all things.’

^f See note (B) at the end of the volume.

^g Isai. l.iii. according to the Septuagint.

In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation; for his life is taken from the earth. For the transgressions of my people he cometh to death. And I will give the wicked for his tomb, and the rich for his death. Because he did no iniquity, neither was guile found in his mouth. And the Lord is pleased to purify him with stripes. If ye make an offering for sin, your soul shall see a long-lived seed. And the Lord is pleased to lighten the travail of his soul, to shew him light, to form him in understanding, to justify the just one who ministereth well to many: and he himself shall bear their sins. For this cause he shall inherit many: and shall divide the spoil of the strong; because his soul was given up to death, and he was numbered with the transgressors: and he bare the sins of many, and was given over for their sins." And again he himself saith; "But I am a worm and no man, a reproach of men, and despised of the people. All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out their lips, they shake their head, (saying,) He trusted in the Lord, let him deliver him, let him save him, seeing he delighteth in him."^b Ye see, beloved, what the pattern is which hath been given unto us. For if the Lord was so humble-

^b Ps. xxii. 6.

minded, what should we do, who are brought by him under the yoke of his grace?

17. Let us be followers of those also, who went about in goat-skins and sheep-skins,ⁱ preaching the coming of Christ. Such were Elijah and Elisha, and Ezekiel, the prophets, and moreover those who have received the like testimony. Abraham was honoured with a good report, and was called the friend of God:^k and he, stedfastly beholding the glory of God, saith with all humility, I am dust and ashes.^l Again, of Job it is thus written, “Job was just, and blameless, true, one that served God, and eschewed all evil.”^m Yet he, accusing himself, saith, “No man is free from pollution, no, not though he should live but one day.”ⁿ Moses was called faithful in all God’s house,^o and by his conduct the Lord punished Israel by stripes and plagues. And even this man so greatly honoured, spake not greatly of himself, but when the oracle of God was delivered to him out of the bush, he said, “Who am I that thou dost send me? I am of

ⁱ Heb. xi. 37.

^k 2 Chron. xx. 7. Isai. xli. 8. James ii. 23.

^l Gen. xviii. 27.

^m Job i. 1.

ⁿ Job xiv. 4. Septuagint. Thus Cyprian, Test. ad Quirinum l. 3, c. 54. “Apud Job; Quis enim mundus à sordibus? Nec unus, etiamsi unius diei sit vita ejus in terrâ. Jerome, on Isai. liii. and on Ps. li. quotes the passage in the same manner.

^o Num. xii. 7. Heb. iii. 2.

a slender voice and of a slow tongue.”^p And again he saith : “ I am as the smoke of the pot.”^q

18. Again, what shall we say of Daniel who hath obtained so good a report? to whom God said, “ I have found a man after mine own heart, David the son of Jesse : with my holy oil have I anointed him.”^r But yet he himself saith unto God; “ Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy great kindness, and according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies, blot out my transgression. Wash me throughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge mine iniquity, and my sin is ever before me. Against thee only have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight, that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and overcome when thou judgest. For, behold, I was shapen in wickedness, and in sin did my mother conceive me. For behold thou lovedst truth; the secret and hidden things of wisdom hast thou revealed unto me. Thou shalt purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean : thou shalt wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Thou shalt make me to hear joy and gladness; the bones which have been broken shall rejoice. Turn thy face from

^p Exod. iii. 11. iv. 10.

^q These words are not found in the Pentateuch. See Ps. cxix. 83. Hos. xiii. 5.

^r Ps. lxxxix. 20.

my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence, and take not thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation, and establish me with the guidance of thy spirit. I will teach sinners thy ways, and the ungodly shall be converted unto thee. Deliver me from blood, O God, thou God of my salvation. My tongue shall rejoice in thy righteousness. O Lord, open thou my lips, and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise. For if thou hadst desired sacrifice, I would have given it: thou delightest not in burnt offerings. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and contrite heart God will not despise.”*

19. Thus the humility and godly fear of such great and excellent men, whose praise is in the Scriptures, hath, by means of their obedience, improved not only us, but generations before us, even as many as have received his holy oracles in fear and truth. Having therefore so many, and great, and glorious examples transmitted to us, let us turn again to that mark of peace which from the beginning was set before us: let us look stedfastly up to the Father and Creator of the universe, and hold fast by his glorious and exceeding gifts and benefits of peace. Let us

* Ps. li.

see him with our understanding, and look with the eyes of our soul to his long-suffering will : calling to mind how gentle and slow to anger he is towards his whole creation.

20. The heavens, peaceably revolving by his appointment, are subject unto him. Day and night perform the course appointed by him, in no wise interrupting one another. By his ordinance, the sun and moon, and all the companies of stars, roll on, in harmony, without any deviation, within the bounds allotted to them. In obedience to his will, the pregnant earth yields her fruit plentifully in due season to man and beast, and to all creatures that are therein ; not hesitating nor changing any thing which was decreed by him. The unsearchable secrets of the abyss, and the untold judgments of the lower world, are restrained by the same commands. The hollow depth of the vast sea, gathered together into its several collections by his word, passes not its allotted bounds ; but as he commanded, so doth it. For he said, "Hitherto shalt thou come, and thy waves shall be broken within thee."¹ The ocean impassable to mankind, and the worlds which are beyond it, are governed by the same commands of their master. Spring and summer, and autumn and winter, give place peaceably to one another. The winds, in their stations, per-

¹ Job xxxviii. 11.

form their service without interruption, each in his appointed season. The ever-flowing fountains, ministering both to pleasure and to health, without ceasing put forth their breasts to support the life of man. Nay, the smallest of living creatures maintain their intercourse in concord and peace. All these hath the great Creator and Lord of all things ordained to be in peace and concord; for he is good to all; but above measure to us, who flee to his mercy, through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom be glory and majesty, for ever and ever; Amen.

21. Take heed, beloved, that his many blessings be not turned into condemnation to us all. (For thus it will surely be) unless we walk worthy of him, and with one consent do that which is good and well-pleasing in his sight. For he saith in a certain place, "The spirit of the Lord is a candle, searching out the inward parts of the belly."^u Let us consider how near he is, and that none of our thoughts or reasonings which we frame within ourselves are hid from him. It is therefore just that we should not desert our ranks, (by declining) from his will. Let us choose to offend men, who are foolish and inconsiderate, lifted up, and glorying in the pride of their reasoning, rather than God. Let us reverence our Lord Jesus Christ, whose blood was given

^u See Prov. xx. 27.

for us. Let us honour those who are set over us; let us respect our elders, let us instruct our young men in the discipline and fear of the Lord. Our wives let us direct to that which is good. Let them shew forth the lovely habit of purity (in all their conversation) with a sincere affection of meekness. Let them make manifest the government of their tongues by their silence. Let their charity be without partiality,^x exercised equally to all who religiously fear God. Let our children partake of the instruction of Christ; let them learn of how great avail humility is before God, what power a pure charity hath with him, how excellent and great his fear is, saving such as live in it with holiness and a pure conscience. For he is a searcher of the thoughts and counsels (of the heart): whose breath is in us, and when he pleases, he takes it away.

22. All these things the faith which is in Christ confirms. For he himself, by the Holy Ghost thus speaks to us.^y "Come ye children, hearken unto me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord. What man is he that desireth life, and loveth to see good days? Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile. Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and ensue it. The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous; and his ears are open unto their

^x 1 Tim. v. 21.

^y Ps. xxxiv. 11—17.

prayer. But the face of the Lord is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth. The righteous cried, and the Lord heard him; and delivered him out of all his troubles. Many are the plagues of the wicked: but they that trust in the Lord, mercy shall compass them about.”^z

23. Our all merciful and beneficent Father hath bowels of compassion towards them that fear him; and kindly and lovingly bestows his graces upon such as come to him with a simple mind. Wherefore let us not be double-minded, neither let us have any doubt in our hearts, of his excellent and glorious gifts. Let that be far from us which is written, “Miserable are the double-minded, and those who are doubtful in their hearts;^a who say, These things have we heard, even from our fathers; and lo, we are grown old, and nothing of them hath happened unto us. O fools! Compare yourselves unto a tree: take the vine (as an example to you). First it sheds its leaves; then comes forth the bud, then the leaf, then the flower; after that the unripe grape, and then the perfect fruit.” Ye see how, in a little time, the fruit of a tree comes to maturity. Of a truth, yet a little while, and his will shall suddenly be accomplished: the Scripture also bearing witness, “that He

^z Ps. xxxii. 10.

^a James i. 8.

shall quickly come, and shall not tarry: and that the Lord shall suddenly come to his temple, even the Holy One, whom ye look for.”^b

24. Let us consider, beloved, how the Lord doth continually shew us, that there shall be a future resurrection, of which he hath made our Lord Jesus Christ the first fruits, raising him from the dead. Let us contemplate, beloved, the resurrection which is continually taking place. Day and night declare to us a resurrection.^c The night lies down, the day arises: again, the day departs, and the night comes on. Let us behold the fruits (of the earth). Every one sees how the seed is sown. The sower goes forth, and casts it upon the earth, and the seed which, when it was sown, fell upon the earth dry and naked, in time is dissolved; and from this dissolution the mighty power of the providence of the Lord raises it, and out of one seed many arise and bring forth fruit.

25. Let us consider that wonderful sign, which occurs in the regions of the East, in Arabia. There is a certain bird, called a Phœnix.^d

^b Hab. ii. 3. Mal. iii 1.

^c See Tertullian Apol. chap. 48.

^d The application, which Clement here makes of the supposed history of the Phœnix, has given rise to more discussion than the question deserves. He was not likely to be better informed upon a fact of Natural History, than his contemporaries, Tacitus and Pliny: (Tacitus, Annal. vi. 28. Pliny, Hist.

Nat. x. 2.)

It is the only individual of its kind, and lives five hundred years. When the time of its dissolution draws near, that it must die, it makes itself a nest of frankincense, and myrrh, and other spices, into which, when its time is fulfilled, it enters, and dies. But as the body decays, a certain kind of worm is produced, which nourished by the juices of the dead bird, puts forth feathers. And when it is at length grown to a perfect state, it takes up the nest in which the bones of its parent lie, and carries it from Arabia into Egypt, to the city called Heliopolis; and, in open day, flying in the sight of all men, places them upon the altar of the sun, and, having done this, hastens back to his abode. The priests, then, search the records of the time, and find that it hath come at the completion of the five hundredth year.

Nat. x. 2.) Historians, from Herodotus (ii. 73.) downwards, have related particulars of this imaginary bird, with circumstances more or less fanciful: and Clement might, without impropriety employ an illustration founded upon an alleged fact, which was generally credited in the age in which he lived: his object being, not to prove the *fact* of the resurrection, but to shew that it is possible. Tertullian, Ambrose, (De fide Resurrect. c. 8.) and many other Christian writers allude to the Phoenix in the same manner. See Junius' note on Clem. Rom. It does not appear that Clement applied to the *phœnix* what is said of the *palm-tree*, Ps. xcii. 12. Job xxix. 18. as Tertullian (De Resurrect. Camis, c. 13.) and others did, being misled by the circumstance that, in the Greek translation, the same word, *φοίνιξ* expressed both. Compare Tertullian, Apol. c. 48. De Resurrect. Camis, c. 12. Theophilus ad Autolycum, Lib. i. p. 77. D. See Pearson on the Creed, Art. xi. p. 376.

26. Shall we then think it to be any very great and strange thing, for the Maker of all things to raise up those that religiously serve him in the assurance of a good faith, when even by a bird he shews us the greatness of his (power to fulfil his) promise. For he saith in a certain place, "Thou shalt raise me up, and I shall confess unto thee." And again, "I laid me down and slept, and awaked, because thou art with me."^c And again Job saith, "Thou shalt raise up this my flesh, which hath suffered all these things."^d

27. Having therefore this hope, let us hold fast to him who is faithful in his promises, and righteous in his judgments. He who hath commanded us not to lie, much more will he not himself lie. For nothing is impossible with God,^e but to lie.^h Let his faith therefore be stirred up again in us, and let us consider that all things are near unto him. By the word of his power he made all things; and by his word he is able to destroy them. Who shall say unto him, What hast thou done? or who shall resist the power of his might?^f He hath done all things when he pleased, and as he pleased; and nothing shall pass away of all that hath been determined by him.

^c Ps. iii. 5.

^f Job xix. 26.

^g Mark x. 27.

^h Heb. vi. 18.

ⁱ Wisd. xii. 12.

All things are open before him, and nothing is hid from his counsel. “The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament sheweth his handy work. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech nor language where their voices are not heard.”^k

28. Since, then, all things are seen and heard (by God,) let us fear him, and lay aside the wicked works which proceed from impure desires, that through his mercy we may be delivered from the condemnation which is to come. For whither can any of us escape from his mighty hand? Or what world shall receive any of those who flee from him? For thus saith the Scripture in a certain place: “Whither shall I flee, or where shall I hide myself from thy presence? If I go up to heaven, thou art there: if I go to the uttermost parts of the earth, there is thy right hand. If I shall make my bed in the deep, there is thy spirit.”^l Whither then shall any one go, or whither shall he flee from Him who comprehends all things in himself.

29. Let us therefore come to him with holiness of mind, lifting up pure and undefiled hands unto him:^m loving our gracious and merciful Father, who hath made us partakers of his elec-

^k Ps. xix. 1, 2, 3.

^l Ps. cxxxix. 7.

^m 1 Tim. ii. 8. Rom. ix. 19, 20.

tion. For thus it is written^a “ When the most High divided the nations, when he separated the sons of Adam, he set the bounds of the nations according to the number of his angels. His people Jacob became the portion of the Lord, and Israel the lot of his inheritance.” And in another place he saith,^b “ Behold the Lord taketh unto himself a nation from the midst of the nations, as a man taketh the first fruits of his flour ; and the most Holy^c shall come out of that nation.”

30. Wherefore we being a part of the Holy One, let us do all things which pertain unto holiness, fleeing all evil-speaking against one another, all filthy and impure embraces, together with all drunkenness, youthful lusts, abominable concupiscence, detestable adultery, and execrable pride. “ For God,” saith he, “ resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.”^d Let us therefore cleave to those to whom God hath given his grace. And let us be clothed with concord, humble-minded, temperate, free from all whispering and detraction, justified by our actions not by our words. For he saith,^e “ He that speaketh much, shall hear much in answer. Doth he who is of fair speech count himself righteous? Doth he that is born of woman and liveth but a few

^a Deut. xxxii. 8, 9. Septuagint.

^c Deut. iv. 34.

^b Greek, The holy of holies.

^d Jam. iv. 6. 1 Pet. v. 5.

^e Job xi. 2, 3. Septuagint.

days think himself blessed? Be not a man of many words." * Let our praise be of God, not of ourselves. For those that praise themselves God hates. Let the testimony of our good works be given by others, as it was given to the holy men, our fathers. Boldness, and arrogance, and confidence belong to them who are accursed of God: but moderation, and humility and meekness to those who are blessed by him.

31. Let us then lay hold on his blessing, and consider by what means we may attain unto it. Let us revolve in our minds those things which have happened from the beginning. Wherefore was our father Abraham blessed? Was it not that through faith he wrought righteousness and truth? Isaac, being fully persuaded of that which he knew was to come, cheerfully yielded himself up for a sacrifice.^t Jacob with humility departed out of his own country, fleeing from his brother, and went unto Laban, and served him: and so the sceptre of the twelve tribes of Israel was given unto him.

32. Whoever will carefully consider each particular, will understand the greatness of the

* Greek, Be not much in words.

^t This assertion may appear to disagree with Gen. xxii. 7. The faith of Isaac in blessing "Jacob and Esau concerning things to come," is commemorated, Heb. xi. 20. Chrysostom, in his 47th Homily on Genesis, notices the willing obedience of Isaac.

gifts, which were given through him. For from him came all the priests and Levites, who ministered at the altar of God. From him came our Lord Jesus Christ, according to the flesh.^u From him came the kings and princes and rulers in Judah. And the rest of his tribes were in no small glory; since God had promised, “Thy seed shall be as the stars of heaven.”^x They were all, therefore, glorified and magnified, not for their own sake or for their works, or for the righteous deeds which they had done, but through his will. And we also, being called by his will in Christ Jesus, are not justified by ourselves, neither by our own wisdom, or knowledge, or piety, or the works which we have done in holiness of heart; but by that faith by which Almighty God hath justified all men from the beginning: to whom be glory for ever and ever; Amen.

33. What shall we do, then, brethren? Shall we grow weary in well doing, and lay aside charity? God forbid that any such thing should be done by us. Rather let us hasten with all earnestness and readiness of mind to perfect every good work. For even the Creator and Lord of all things himself rejoices in his own works. For by his almighty power he established the heavens; and by his incomprehensible

^u Rom. ix. 5.

^x Gen. xv. 5. xxii. 17. xxviii. 14.

wisdom he adorned them. He also divided the earth from the water which encompasses it, and fixed it as a firm tower, upon the foundation of his own will. By his appointment also he commanded all the living creatures, that are upon it, to exist. He created the sea and all the creatures that are therein, and by his power enclosed them within their proper bounds. Above all, with his holy and pure hands, he formed man, the most excellent of his creatures, and the greatest, as endowed with reason; the impress of his own image. For thus God saith: "Let us make man after our image, and likeness."^y So God made man, male and female created he them. Having thus furnished all these things, he pronounced them good, and blessed them, and said, Be fruitful and multiply.^z We see how all righteous men have been adorned with good works. Wherefore even the Lord himself, having adorned himself with his works, rejoiced. Having therefore such an example, let us diligently fulfil his will: and with all our strength work the work of righteousness.

34. The good workman receives with confidence the bread of his labour: the idle and negligent cannot look his employer in the face. We must therefore be ready and active in well-doing; for from him are all things. And thus he foretells

^y Gen. i. 26, 27.

^z Gen. i. 28.

us: "Behold the Lord cometh, and his reward is before his face, to render to every man according to his work."^a He warns us therefore beforehand with all his heart, to this end, that we should not be slothful and negligent in well doing.^b Let our boasting and our confidence be in God. Let us submit ourselves to his will. Let us consider the whole multitude of his angels, how ready they stand to minister unto his will. For the Scripture saith, "Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him, and thousands of thousands ministered unto him. And they cried, saying, Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of Sabaoth; all creation is full of his glory."^c Wherefore let us also, being conscientiously gathered together in concord with one another, as with one mouth cry earnestly unto him, that we may be partakers of his great and glorious promises. For he saith; "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man the things which he hath prepared for them that wait for him."^d

35. How blessed and wonderful, beloved, are the gifts of God! Life in immortality! brightness in righteousness! truth in full assurance! faith in confidence! temperance in holiness! And all these hath God subjected to our under-

^a Isai. xl. 10. lxii. 11. Rev. xxii. 11.

^b Gal. vi. 9. 2 Thess. iii. 13. ^c Dan. vii. 10. Isai. vi. 3.

^d 1 Cor. ii. 9. Isai. lxiv. 4.

standings. What therefore shall those things be which he hath prepared for them that wait for him? The Creator and Father of the worlds,^c the most Holy, He (only) knows both the greatness and beauty of them. Let us therefore strive with all earnestness, that we may be found in the number of those that wait for him, that we may receive the gifts which he hath promised. And how shall this be, beloved? by fixing our minds through faith towards God, and seeking the things which are pleasing and acceptable unto him: by acting conformably to his holy will; and following the way of truth, casting away from us all unrighteousness and iniquity, covetousness, strife, evil manners, deceit, whispering, detraction; all hatred of God, pride and boasting, vain glory and ambition.^f For they that do these things are hateful to God; and not only they that do them, but also all such as have pleasure in them that do them.^g For the Scripture saith,^h “But to the ungodly said God, Why dost thou preach my laws, and takest my covenant in thy mouth; whereas thou hatest to be reformed, and hast cast my words behind thee. If thou sawest a thief, thou didst run with him, and with the adulterers thou didst cast in thy lot. Thy mouth abounded in wick-

^c τάντας αἰώνων.

^f Rom. i. 32.

^f 2 Cor. xii. 20. Rom. i. 29.

^h Ps. l. 16—23. Septuagint.

edness, and thy tongue contrived deceit. Thou satest, and spakest against thy brother, and hast slandered thine own mother's son. These things hast thou done, and I held my tongue, and thou thoughtest wickedly that I should be like unto thee. But I will reprove thee, and set thyself before thee. Consider, then, this, ye that forget God, lest he tear thee in pieces, like a lion, and there be none to deliver you. The sacrifice of praise, that shall honour me; and there is the way, by which I will shew to him the salvation of God."

36. This is the way, beloved, in which we find the means of our salvation, Jesus Christ, the high-priest of all our offerings, the defender and helper of our weakness. By him we look up to the highest heavens, and behold, as in a glass, his spotless and most excellent countenance. By him are the eyes of our hearts opened; by him our foolish and darkened understanding rejoices (to behold) his wonderful light. By him would God have us to taste the knowledge of immortality, "Who being the brightness of his glory, is by so much greater than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they."¹ For so it is written, "Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire."² "But to his Son, thus saith the Lord,

¹ Heb. i. 2, 3.

² Ps. civ. 4. Heb. i. 7.

Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee. Ask of me, and I will give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the utmost parts of the earth for thy possession."¹ And again he saith unto him, "Sit thou on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool."^m And who then are his enemies? the wicked, and such as oppose their own wills to the will of God.

37. Let us, therefore, wage (our heavenly) warfare, men and brethren, with all earnestness according to his holy commands. Let us consider those who fight under our (earthly) governors, how orderly, how readily, how obediently they perform the commands which each receives. All are not captains of the host, all are not commanders of a thousand, nor of an hundred, nor of fifty, nor the like. But each one, in his respective rank, performs what is commanded him by the king, and those who are in authority. They who are great cannot subsist without those who are small; nor the small without the great. There must be a mixture in all things, and hence arises their use. Let us take our body as an example.ⁿ The head without the feet is nothing: so neither the feet without the head: and the smallest members of our body are necessary, and useful to the whole body. But all conspire together, and are

¹ Ps. ii. 7, 8.

^m Ps. cx. 1. Heb. i. 13.

ⁿ 1 Cor. xii. 13.

subject to one common use, the preservation of the whole body.

38. Let, therefore, our whole body be saved in Christ Jesus; and let each one be subject to his neighbour,^o according to the order in which he is placed by the gift of God. Let not the strong man despise the weak; and let the weak reverence the strong. Let the rich man distribute to the necessities of the poor; and let the poor bless God, that he hath given to him one by whom his want may be supplied. Let the wise man shew forth his wisdom, not in words, but in good works. Let him that is of humble mind not bear witness to himself, but leave it to another to bear witness of him. Let him, that is pure in the flesh, glory not therein, knowing that it was another who gave him the gift of continence. Let us consider, therefore, brethren, whereof we are made; who, and what manner of beings, we came into this world, as it were out of a sepulchre, and darkness. He, who made us and formed us, brought us into his own world. He prepared his benefits for us, even before we were born. Having, therefore, received all these blessings from him, we ought in every thing to give thanks unto him: to whom be glory for ever and ever; Amen.

39. Foolish and unwise men, who have neither prudence nor learning, may mock and deride

^o 1 Pet. v. 5. Eph. v. 21.

us, wishing to set up themselves in their own conceits. But what can mortal man do? or what strength is there in him that is made of the dust? For it is written,^p “There was no shape before mine eyes; only I heard a sound and a voice. For what? shall man be pure before the Lord? shall he be blameless in his works, if He trusteth not in his servants, and hath charged his angels with folly? Yea the heaven is not clean in his sight. How much less they that dwell in houses of clay; of which also we ourselves were made. He smote them as a moth; and from morning even unto the evening they endure not. Because they were not able to help themselves, they perished. He breathed upon them, and they died; because they had no wisdom. Call now, if there be any that will answer thee: and if thou wilt look to any of the angels. For wrath killeth the foolish man; and envy slayeth him that is in error. I have seen the foolish taking root, but lo their habitation was presently consumed. Be their children far from safety; may they perish at the gates of those who are less than themselves; and let there be no man to deliver them. For what was prepared for them, the righteous shall eat: and they shall not be delivered from evil.”

40. Seeing, then, that these things are manifest unto us, we ought to take heed, that, look-

^p Job iv. 16. xv. 15. iv. 19.

ing into the depths of divine knowledge, we do all things in order, whatsoever our Lord hath commanded us to do. That we perform our offerings⁴ and service to God, at their appointed seasons: for these he hath commanded to be done not rashly and disorderly, but at certain determinate times and hours. He hath himself ordained by his supreme will both where and by what persons they are to be performed, that all things being piously done unto all well-

⁴ In the early ages of the Church there was not only a pecuniary collection made every Lord's day, for the benefit of the poor, in compliance with the command of St. Paul, 1 Cor. xvi. 1, 2. but certain *offerings* were placed upon the holy table by the Minister. This was done, after the service of the Catechumens, and before the service of the faithful began. Justin Martyr speaks of them in his First Apology, Sect. 16. and 87. Irenæus iv. 32. says, "The Lord gave his disciples command to offer unto God the first-fruits of his creatures, not as if he needed them, but that they themselves might be neither unfruitful nor ungrateful. He took that which by its created nature was bread, and gave thanks, saying, This is my body. In like manner also he declared that, which by its present created nature is the cup, to be his blood: and taught them to make a new offering of the New Testament."

Hence the term *oblation*, *προσφορά*, is frequently used for the celebration of the Eucharist itself; and sometimes for the offerings thus made. Every one made these offerings, according to his ability, as the first-fruits of his increase. They were applied to the general uses of the Church, to the support of the ministry and of the poor. The common entertainment, or feast of love, in which the rich and the poor met together at the same table, either before, or soon after the celebration of the Holy Sacrament, was probably furnished from this source.

In reference to these offerings, Bishops are described, in this Epistle, c. 44, as those who "offer the gifts."

overseers^u in righteousness, and their ministers^x in faith."^y

43. And what wonder, if they to whom such a work was committed by God in Christ, established such an order of men as hath been mentioned, since even Moses, that happy and faithful servant in all his house,^z set down in the holy Scriptures all things that were commanded him. Whom also all the other prophets followed, bearing witness with one consent to what was written by him in the law. For when a strife arose concerning the priesthood, and the tribes contended which of them should be adorned with that glorious name, he commanded their twelve captains to bring him rods, inscribed each according to the name of its tribe. And he took and bound them, and sealed them with the seals of the twelve princes of the tribes, and laid them up in the tabernacle of witness, upon the table of God. And when he had shut (the door of) the tabernacle, he sealed up the keys of it, in like manner as he had sealed the rods: and said unto them, Men and brethren; whichsoever tribe shall have its rod blossom, that tribe hath God chosen, to be priests and ministers before him. And when the morning was come, he called together all Israel, six hundred thousand men, and he shewed the seals to the princes of the tribes, and opened

^u ἐπισκόπους.

^x ἀιακόνους.

^y See Isai. LX. 17.

^z Heb. iii. 2. Num. xii. 7.

the tabernacle of witness, and brought forth the rods. And the rod of Aaron was found not only to have blossomed, but also to have brought forth fruit.^a What think ye, beloved? Did not Moses know beforehand, that thus it would be? Yes, verily. But that there might be no division nor tumult in Israel, he did in this manner, that the name of the true and only God might be glorified: to him be honour for ever and ever; Amen.

44. So likewise our Apostles knew by our Lord Jesus Christ, that contentions should arise on account of the ministry. And therefore, having a perfect foreknowledge of this, they appointed persons, as we have before said, and then gave a direction^b in what manner, when they should die, other chosen and approved men should succeed in their ministry. Wherefore, we cannot think that those may justly be thrown out of their ministry, who were appointed by them, or afterwards chosen by other eminent men, with the consent of the whole Church,^c and who have with all lowliness

^a Num. xvii.

^b ἐπιτροπὴ. Junius conceives this word to imply a description of the duties attached to each office; Salmasius renders it, "a precept;" Archbishop Usher, "a prescribed order;" Marca, "a form;" Hammond gives it the sense of "a catalogue or a series and order of succession." Le Clerc imagines the meaning of Clement to be, that the Apostles not only appointed the first Bishops, but selected, from the whole body of the Church, those who should succeed them.

^c A clear intimation is here given of the different parts
which

and innocence ministered to the flock of Christ in peace, and without self-interest, and have been for a long time commended by all. For it would be no small sin in us, should we cast off those from the ministry, who holily and without blame fulfil the duties^d of it. Blessed are those priests, who

which the clergy and people took in the ordination of a Bishop. The first appointment rested with the Apostles and Bishops, but the consent of the people was necessary. Cyprian, Epist. Lxviii., plainly shews that this was the case. "In compliance with divine tradition and apostolical usage, the custom must diligently be observed and maintained, which is established among us and in almost all other provinces; that, for the due celebration of ordinations, the Bishops of all the adjoining provinces are to repair to the people, over whom a Bishop is to be ordained; and then a Bishop shall be chosen, in the presence of the people, who have had the fullest knowledge of the life of each one, and been thoroughly acquainted with their manners and whole conversation." In his lvth Epistle he says also, "(Cornelius) was ordained Bishop by many of our colleagues who were there present in Rome: he was ordained Bishop by the judgment of God and of Christ, by the testimony of almost all the clergy, with the assent of the people who were there present, and by the assembly of antient priests and holy men."

Origen, in his 6th Homily upon Leviticus, says "that the presence of the people is necessary in the ordination of a Bishop, that all may know and be well assured, that he who is chosen to that office is distinguished among all the people for his pre-eminence in learning, and holiness, and a virtuous life: and this is done in the presence of the people, that there may be no room for mistake or objection."

Bishop Fell, who gives two of these references, shews, in his note, how exactly this primitive usage agrees with the custom of the Church of England.

^d προσενέγκοντας τὰ ἀρά, offering the gifts. See Note on Sect. 40. The Eucharist itself was also styled "munus consecratum," "munera sancta," "ἡ μυστικὴ ἀρωφορία," and by the

having finished their course before these times, have obtained a fruitful and perfect dissolution. For they have no fear lest any one should remove them from the place appointed for them. But we see how you have put out some, who conducted themselves well, from the ministry which by their innocence they had adorned.

45. Ye are contentious, brethren, and zealous for things which pertain not unto salvation. Look into the holy Scriptures, which are the true words of the Holy Ghost. Ye know that nothing unjust or counterfeit is written in them. There you shall not find that righteous men were ever cast off by those who were holy themselves. The just were persecuted; but it was by the unjust: they were cast into prison; but it was by the unholy: they were stoned; but it was by transgressors: they were slain; but it was by the wicked, and by such as had taken up unjust envy against them. All these sufferings they endured gloriously. For what shall we say, brethren? Was it by those who feared God that Daniel was cast into the den of lions? Was it by men, who worshipped the most High with excellent and glorious worship, that Ananias, Asarias, and Misael, were shut up in the fiery furnace? God forbid. What manner of men, therefore, were they who did these things? they

the Ethiopians, expressly, Corban, that is to say, a gift; Mark vii. 11.

were men abominable, full of all wickedness : men so incensed as to afflict those who served God with a holy and unblameable purpose of mind : knowing not that the most High is the protector and defender of all those who with a pure conscience serve his holy name : to whom be glory for ever and ever ; Amen. And they who in the fulness of faith have endured, are become inheritors of glory and honour ; and are exalted and lifted up by God in their memorial for ever and ever ; Amen.

46. It is, therefore, brethren our duty to cleave to such examples as these. For it is written, “Hold fast to such as are holy ; for they that do so shall be sanctified.”^e And again in another place he saith, “With the pure thou shalt be pure, and with the elect thou shalt be elect, but with the perverse man thou shalt be perverse.”^f Let us therefore cleave to the innocent and righteous ; for such are the elect of God. Wherefore are there strifes, and anger, and divisions, and schisms, and wars among us ? Have we not all one God, and one Christ ?^g Is not one Spirit of grace poured out upon us all ? Have we not one calling in Christ ? Wherefore, then, do we rend and tear in pieces the members of Christ : and raise seditions against our own body ? And

^e See Wisd. vi. 35. 1 Cor. vii. 14.

^f Ps. xviii. 26.

^g Eph. iv. 4. 1 Cor. xii.

are come to such a height of madness, as to forget that "we are members one of another."^b Remember the words of our Lord Jesus. For he said;^c "Woe to that man (by whom offences come): it were better for him that he had never been born, than that he should have offended one of mine elect. It were better for him, that a mill-stone should be hanged about his neck, and he should be cast into the sea, than that he should offend one of my little ones." Your schism hath perverted many, hath discouraged many: it hath thrown many into doubt, and all of us into grief. And yet your sedition continues to prevail.

47. Take into your hands the epistle of the blessed Paul the apostle. What did he first write to you at the beginning of the Gospel.^k Verily

^b Rom. xii. 5.

^c Matt. xxvi. 24. Mark ix. 42. Luke xvii. 2. Matt. xviii. 6.

^k The phrase, "in the beginning of the Gospel," which is used by St. Paul, Phil. iv. 15., denotes either the period when the Gospel was first preached, or the time when it was first made known to any particular Church. The Corinthian Church is here, then, called ancient, as having been founded in the first ages of the Christian religion. The Churches, which were first established, were always held in the highest honour. Thus, Irenæus iii. 3. eulogizes the Church of Rome, as "the greatest and most ancient and well known Church, founded and established by the two most glorious Apostles, Peter and Paul." Tertullian, de Virginibus Velandis c. 2. describes the Apostolic Churches, as those "which were avowedly founded by the Apostles, which ascribed their origin to one of the Apostles; which were taught by them; and to which any Epistles of the Apostles were addressed." See Tertullian Præscrip. Hæret. 32. Marcion iv. 5. Cotelerius.

made perfect; without charity nothing is well-pleasing to God. In charity did the Lord take us to himself: through the love which he bare towards us, Christ our Lord gave his blood for us, by the will of God: and his flesh for our flesh: and his soul for our souls.^p

50. Ye see, beloved, how great and wonderful charity is: and its perfection cannot be expressed. Who is fit to be found in it, except those whom God shall vouchsafe to make so? Let us therefore pray to him and beseech him, that we may be worthy of it: that we may live in charity, without human partiality, unblameable. All generations from Adam until this day have passed away: but they who have been made perfect in love, according to the grace of Christ, have a place among the righteous, and shall be made manifest in the judgment of the kingdom of Christ. For it is written, “Enter into thy chamber for a little space, until mine anger and indignation shall pass away.”^q And I will remember the good day, and will raise you up out of your graves.” Happy, then, are we, beloved, if we shall have performed

^p τὴν ψυχὴν ὑπὲρ τῶν ψυχῶν ημῶν. Irenæus, Lib. v. 1. uses the same expression: “The Lord, therefore, having redeemed us by his own blood, and having given his soul for our souls, and his flesh for our flesh, and having poured forth the Spirit of the Father, for the purpose of uniting God and man.”

^q Isai. xxvi. 20.

the commandments of God in the unity of love, that so, through love, our sins may be forgiven us. For so it is written ; “ Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man, to whom the Lord imputeth no sin, and in whose mouth there is no guile.”¹ This blessing is upon those who are chosen of God, through Jesus Christ our Lord ; to whom be glory for ever and ever ; Amen.

51. Let us, therefore, as many as have transgressed by any of the suggestions of the adversary, pray for forgiveness : and let those, who have been the leaders of the sedition and dissention among you, look to the common object of our hope. For as many as have their conversation in fear and charity, would rather they themselves should fall into trials than their neighbours : and choose to be condemned themselves, rather than to violate that good and equitable concord which hath been transmitted to us. For it is good for a man to confess wherein he hath transgressed, rather than to harden his heart, as the hearts of those were hardened, who raised up sedition against Moses the servant of God : whose punishment was manifest to all men ; for they went down alive into the grave ; death swallowed them up.² Pharaoh and his host,³ and all the rulers of Egypt, their

¹ Ps. xxxii. 1.

² Numb. xvi.

³ Exod. iv.

chariots also and their horsemen, were overwhelmed in the Red Sea and perished, for no other reason than because they hardened their foolish hearts, after so many signs had been done in the land of Egypt, by Moses the servant of God.

52. Beloved, the Lord is in want of nothing : neither requires he any thing of us, but that we should confess our sins unto him. For so saith the holy David : "I will confess unto the Lord, and it shall please him better than a young bullock, that hath horns and hoofs. Let the poor see it, and be glad."^u And again he saith, "Offer unto God the sacrifice of praise; and pay thy vows unto the most Highest. And call upon me in the day of trouble, and I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me."^x "The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit."^y

53. Ye know, beloved, ye know full well the holy Scriptures ; and have thoroughly searched into the oracles of God. Call them, therefore, to your remembrance. For when Moses went up into the mount, and tarried there forty days and forty nights, in fasting and humiliation, God said unto him,^z "Arise, Moses, get thee down quickly from hence, for thy people have committed wickedness : they whom thou hast brought out of the land of Egypt have quickly turned aside from the

^u Ps. lxix. 31.

^y Ps. li. 17.

^x Ps. l. 14.

^z Ex. xxxii. Deut. ix. 12.

way which I commanded them, and have made to themselves molten images. And the Lord said unto him, I have spoken unto thee once and again, saying, I have seen this people, and behold it is a stiff-necked people. Let me therefore destroy them, and I will blot out their name from under heaven, and I will make of thee a nation mighty and wonderful, and much greater than they. But Moses said, not so, Lord: forgive now this people their sin; and if not, blot me also out of the book of the living." O admirable charity! O insuperable perfection! The servant speaks boldly to his Lord; he beseeches him either to forgive the people, or that he himself may also be destroyed with them.

54. Who, then, is there among you that is generous? who, that is compassionate? who that is filled with charity? let him say, if this sedition, and strife and schism be upon my account,^a I am

^a Clement here professes no more than he practised. It is highly probable, as Epiphanius asserts, that he was appointed, by St. Peter, to be Bishop of Rome, but declined accepting the office as long as Linus and Cletus (or Anencletus) lived. This seems the most probable cause of the difficulty of ascertaining the succession of the first Bishops of Rome.

Chrysostom, in his xith Homily on the Epistle to the Ephesians, (Vol. iii. p. 824. Savile.) expresses his readiness to act up to this precept; "If you entertain," he says, "such suspicions respecting me, I am ready to resign my office, and to retire whithersoever ye will, only so that the unity of the Church may be preserved."

Gregory Nazianzen actually resigned the See of Constantinople, rather than be the cause of disputes in the Church. See Cave's life: Sect 6.

ready to depart, to go away whithersoever ye please; and to do whatsoever the multitude command me; only let the flock of Christ be in peace, with the elders that are set over it. He that shall do this, shall obtain to himself a very great honour in the Lord: and every place will be ready to receive him. “For the earth is the Lord’s, and the fulness thereof.”^b These things they who have their conversation towards God not to be repented of, both have done, and will always be ready to do.

55. Nay, to produce examples even of the Gentiles: many kings and rulers, in times of pestilence, being warned by their oracles, have given themselves up to death, that they might, by their own blood, deliver their country. Many have forsaken their cities, that seditions might no longer continue. We know how many^c among ourselves

^b Ps. xxiv. 1.

^c St. Paul mentions “Priscilla and Aquila, my helpers in Christ Jesus, who have for my life laid down their own necks.” Rom. xvi. 3, 4. and Epaphroditus, who “for the work of Christ was nigh unto death not regarding his life.” Phil. ii. 30. Baronius relates that St. Alban, the proto-martyr of Britain, gave himself up and was put to death under Diocletian, A.D. 303, instead of a fugitive who had taken refuge from persecution under his roof.

In the early ages of Christianity many, under the designation of Parabolani, gave themselves up to the care of the sick, at the peril of their own lives. These were so numerous, that a law was passed to limit their number. Codex Theodos. Lib. xvi. Tit. 2. leg: 42. (Fell.)

have given themselves up into bonds, that thereby they might free others. Many have sold themselves into bondage, and received the price, that with it they might feed others. Nay, even women, strengthened by the grace of God, have performed many manly actions. The blessed Judith,^d when her city was besieged, desired the elders that they would suffer her to go into the camp of their enemies. Thus she went out, and exposed herself to danger for the love she bare to her country, and her people that were besieged: and the Lord delivered Holofernes into the hand of a woman. Again, Esther,^e being made perfect in the faith, exposed herself to a danger equally great, that she might deliver the twelve tribes of Israel, who were in danger of being destroyed. For by fasting and humbling herself she entreated the great maker of all things, the God of the worlds; so that beholding the humiliation of her soul, he delivered the people, for whose sake she was in peril.

56. Let us, therefore, pray for those who are fallen into any sin; that meekness and humility may be given unto them, so that they may submit not unto us, but unto the will of God. For by these means they shall obtain a fruitful and perfect remembrance, with mercy, both in our prayers to

^d Judith viii. ix. x. xi.

^e Esth. vii. viii.

^f Θεὸν τῷν αἰώνων.

God, and in our mention of them before his saints. Let us receive correction, at which no man ought to repine. Beloved, the admonition which we exercise towards one another is good, and exceedingly profitable: for it unites us the more closely to the will of God. For thus saith the Holy Scripture; “The Lord chastened and corrected me; but he did not give me over unto death.”^g “For whom the Lord loveth, he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.”^h “The righteous,” saith he, “shall instruct me in mercy, and reprove me: but let not the oil of sinners anoint my head with its fatness.”ⁱ And again he saith,^k “Happy is the man, whom God correcteth: but despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty. For he maketh sore, and again restorest; he woundeth, and his hands make whole. Six times out of trouble he shall deliver thee: yea, in seven there shall no evil touch thee. In famine, he shall redeem thee from death; and in war he shall defend thee from the hand of iron. He shall hide thee from the scourge of the tongue: neither shalt thou be afraid of evils when they come. Thou shalt laugh at the wicked and sinners; neither shalt thou be afraid of the beasts of the earth. For the wild beasts shall be at peace with thee. Then shalt thou know that thy house shall be in

^g Ps. cxviii. 18.

^h Prov. iii. 11.

ⁱ Ps. cxl. 5. Septuagint.

^k Job v. 17.

peace ; and the habitation of thy tabernacle shall not err. Thou shalt also know that thy seed shall be great ; and thy offspring as all the grass of the field. And thou shalt come to the grave as ripe corn, that is taken in due time, like as a shock of corn cometh in, in its season." Ye see, beloved, that there is a protection to those who are corrected of the Lord. For he is a good instructor; and is willing that we should be admonished by his holy discipline.

57. Do ye, therefore, who laid the foundation of the sedition, submit yourselves unto your elders ;¹ and be instructed unto repentance, bending the knees of your hearts. Learn to be subject ; laying aside all proud and arrogant boasting of your tongues. For it is better for you to be found in the sheep-fold of Christ little and approved, than to appear superior to others, and to be cast out of his hope.² For thus speaks the excellent and all-virtuous Wisdom,³ "Behold I will pour out the word of my spirit upon you; I will make known my speech unto you. Because I called, and ye would not hear : I stretched out my words, and ye regarded not : but ye set at nought all my counsel, and disobeyed my reproof; therefore I also will

¹ 1 Pet. v. 5.

² *ἐκ τῆς ἔλπιδος αὐτοῦ*—perhaps we should read *ἐκ τῆς ἐπανήδοσ*—‘out of his fold.’

³ Prov. i. 23. The book of Proverbs is often quoted by this title, by the early Christian writers.

laugh at your calamity, and exult when your desolation cometh ; and when trouble cometh suddenly upon you, and destruction as a whirlwind, or when persecution or siege cometh upon you. For it shall come to pass, when ye call upon me, I will not hear you : the wicked shall seek me ; but they shall not find me. For they hated knowledge, and did not seek the fear of the Lord : neither would they take heed to my counsels, but laughed my reproofs to scorn. Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own ways ; and shall be filled with their own wickedness."

58. Now God, the inspector of all things, the Father^o of spirits, and the Lord of all flesh, who hath chosen our Lord Jesus Christ, and us, by him, to be his peculiar people, grant to every soul of man that calleth upon his glorious and holy name, faith, fear, peace, patience, long-suffering, temperance, holiness, and sobriety, unto all well-pleasing to his name : through our High-priest and protector Jesus Christ; by whom be glory and majesty, and power, and honour, unto Him now and for evermore. Amen.

59. The messengers, whom we have sent unto you, Claudius Ephebus, and Valerius Bito, with

^o ἀπότην.

Fortunatus, send back to us again with all speed in peace and with joy, that they may the sooner acquaint us with your peace and concord, so much prayed for and desired by us ; and that we may rejoice in your good order.

60. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you, and with all that are any where called by God and through him ; to whom be honour and glory, and might, and majesty, and eternal dominion, by Christ Jesus, ^P from everlasting to everlasting. Amen.

^P δι οὐ αντῷ δόξα. κ. τ. λ.

THE
EPISTLE OF POLYCARP
TO THE
PHILIPPIANS.

POLYCARP, and the Presbyters that are with him, to the church of God which is at Philippi, mercy unto you and peace from God Almighty, and the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour, be multiplied.

1. I REJOICED greatly with you, in our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye received the patterns of true love, and accompanied, as it behoved you, those who were bound with chains, the fitting ornament of saints,^a the crowns of those who are

^a Thus Ignatius, in his Epistle to the Ephesians, c. 11. calls his chains "spiritual jewels." Compare also his Epistle to the Smyrneans, c. 11. In like manner Cyprian, Epist. 76. (Fell). "Dicatis Deo hominibus, et fidem suam religiosâ virtute testantibus, ornamenta sunt ista, non vincula: nec Christianorum pedes ad infamiam copulant, sed clarificant ad coronam. O pedes feliciter vincti, qui non à fabro sed Domino resolvuntur! O pedes feliciter vincti, qui itinere salutari ad paradisum diriguntur! O pedes in seculo ad præsens ligati, ut sint semper apud Dominum liberi!" Compare Eusebius, Eccles. Hist. i. 5.

chosen of God and our Lord : and that the firm root of your faith, which was preached from ancient times, remains until now, and brings forth fruit to our Lord Jesus Christ, who suffered himself to be brought even to death for our sins : “ whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death : ”^b “ in whom, having not seen him, ye believe ; and believing rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory.”^c Into which joy many desire to enter, knowing that “ by grace ye are saved, not of works,”^d but by the will of God, through Jesus Christ.

2. “ Wherefore, girding up the loins (of your minds)”^e serve God in fear and truth, laying aside all empty and vain speech, and the error of many, “ believing in him that raised up our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, and gave him glory,”^f and a throne at his right hand : to whom all things in heaven and earth are subject ;^g whom every living creature worships ; who comes to be the judge of the quick and dead ; whose blood God shall require of them that believe not in him. But he that raised up Christ from the dead, shall raise up us also, if we do his will, and walk in his commandments, and love the things which he loved ; abstaining from all unrighteousness, inordinate

^b Acts ii. 24.

^c 1 Pet. i. 8.

^d Eph. ii. 8, 9.

^e 1 Pet. i. 13.

^f 1 Pet. i. 21.

^g Phil. ii. 10.

affection,^h love of money, evil-speaking, false-witness: not rendering evil for evil, or blow for blow, or curse for curse: but remembering what the Lord taught us, saying, “Judge not that ye be not judged: forgive, and it shall be forgiven unto you:” be merciful, that ye may obtain mercy; “for with the same measure that ye mete withal, it shall be measured to you again;”ⁱ and that “Blessed are the poor, and they that are persecuted for righteousness’ sake; for theirs is the kingdom of God.”^k

3. I have not assumed to myself, brethren, the liberty of writing to you these things concerning righteousness; but you yourselves before encouraged me. For neither can I, nor any other such as I am, come up to the wisdom of the blessed and renowned Paul, who, being amongst you, in the presence of those who then lived, taught with exactness and soundness the word of truth; who in his absence also wrote an Epistle^l to you, into which if you diligently look, you may be able to be edified in the faith delivered unto you, which is the mother of us all, being followed with hope,

^h Eph. iv. 19. Col. iii. 5. 1 Pet. iii. 9.

ⁱ Matt. vii. 1. Luke vi. 37.

^k Matt. v. 3—10. Luke vi. 20.

^l ἔγραφεν ἐπιστολάς. The word ἐπιστολαὶ, in the plural, is sometimes used for a single epistle, as Cotelerius shews. Polycarp might possibly, however, allude to the Epistles of St. Paul to the Thessalonians, or to the Corinthians, the contents of which would be communicated to the Philippians.

and led on by love, both towards God and Christ, and towards our neighbour. For if any one hath these things, he hath fulfilled the law of righteousness: for he that hath charity is far from all sin.

4. But “the love of money is the beginning of all evils.”^m Knowing, therefore, that “we brought nothing into the world, neither are we able to carry any thing out,”ⁿ let us arm ourselves with the armour of righteousness, and teach first ourselves to walk in the commandment of the Lord, and then your wives to walk likewise in the faith and love and purity which is given unto them, loving their own husbands in all truth, and kindly affectionate to all others equally in all temperance, and to bring up their children in the instruction and fear of God: that the widows be sober as to what concerns the faith of the Lord, praying without ceasing^o for all men, being far from all detraction, evil-speaking, false-witness, love of money, and all evil: knowing that they are the altars of God; and that he sees all blemishes,^p and nothing is hid from him, either of words or thoughts, nor any of the secret things of the heart.

5. Knowing, therefore, that God is not mocked,^q we ought to walk worthy both of his

^m 1 Tim. vi. 10. ⁿ 1 Tim. vi. 7. ^o 1 Thess. v. 17.

^p πάντα μωμοσκοπεῖται. See Clem. Rom. Sect. 41.

^q Gal. vi. 7.

command and of his glory. In like manner the deacons must be blameless in the sight of his righteousness, as the ministers of God in Christ, and not of men: not false accusers, not double-tongued, not lovers of money, temperate in all things, compassionate, careful, walking according to the truth of the Lord, who became the servant of all; whom if we please in this present world, we shall be made partakers also of that which is to come, according as he hath promised to us that he will raise us from the dead; and that if we shall walk worthy of him, we shall also reign together with him, if we believe. In like manner the young men must be blameless in all things, above all, taking care of their purity, and restraining themselves from all evil. For it is good to emerge¹ out of the lusts which are in the world: for every lust warreth against the spirit:² and “neither fornicators, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, shall inherit the kingdom of God,”³ neither they which act foolishly. Wherefore it is necessary that ye abstain from all these things, being subject to the presbyters and deacons, as unto God and Christ: the virgins also should walk in a spotless and pure conscience.

¹ ἀνακύπτεσθαι. This reading appears preferable to ἀνακόπτεσθαι, “to be cut off.” Thus Chrysostom de Sacerd. Lib. I. 1. ²Ως δὲ μικρὸν καὶ αὐτὸς ἀνέκυψα τοῦ βιωτικοῦ κλύδωνος.

³ 1 Pet. ii. 11.

¹ Cor. vi. 9, 10.

6. Let the elders^a also be compassionate, merciful to all, bringing back such as are in error,^x seeking out all those that are weak, not neglecting the widow or the fatherless, or the poor: but providing always what is good in the sight of God and men;^y abstaining from all wrath, respect of persons, and unrighteous judgment; being far from all covetousness: not ready to believe any thing against any; not severe in judgment, knowing that we are all debtors in point of sin. If therefore we pray to the Lord that he would forgive us, we ought also to forgive.^z For we are before the eyes of our Lord and God, and "must all stand before the judgment seat of Christ,"^a and shall every one give an account of himself. Let us therefore so serve him, with fear and all reverence, as he himself hath commanded, and as the apostles who have preached the gospel unto us, and the prophets who have foretold the coming of our Lord, (have taught us): being zealous of what is good, abstaining from all offence, and from false brethren, and from those who bear the name of Christ in hypocrisy, who deceive vain men.

7. "For whosoever confesses not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh, is antichrist."^b and whosoever confesses not his suffering upon the cross, is

^a Presbyters.

^x Ezek. xxxiv. 4.

^y Rom. xii. 17.

^z Matt. vi. 12—14.

^a Rom. xiv. 10. 2 Cor. v. 10.

^b 1 Joh. iv. 3.

of the devil. And whosoever perverts the oracles of the Lord to his own lusts, he is the first-born of Satan.^c Wherefore leaving the vanity of many, and false doctrines, let us return to the word which was delivered to us from the beginning, “watching unto prayer,”^d and persevering in fasting; with supplication beseeching the all-seeing God, not to lead us into temptation,^e as the Lord hath said, “the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”^f

8. Let us therefore without ceasing hold steadfastly to him who is our hope, and the earnest of our righteousness, even Jesus Christ, who “bare our sins in his own body on the tree;” who “did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth;”^g but endured all for our sakes, that we might live through him. Let us therefore imitate his patience; and if we suffer for his name, let us glorify him. For this example he hath given us by himself, and so we have believed.

9. I exhort you all therefore to obey the word of righteousness, and exercise all patience, which

^c Marcion is said to have once met Polycarp, and to have addressed him with the words, “Dost thou acknowledge me?” The reply attributed to Polycarp is, “I acknowledge thee for the first-born of Satan.” Euseb. Hist. iv. 14. Iren. iii. 3. In the interpolated epistle of Ignatius to the Trallians, Sect. 11. Simon Magus is called “the first-born of Satan,” τὸν πρωτότοκον αὐτοῦ νιόν.

^d 1 Pet. iv. 7.

^e Matt. vi. 13.

^f Matt. xxvi. 41.

^g 1 Pet. ii. 22—24.

ye have seen set forth before your eyes, not only in the blessed Ignatius, and Zosimus, and Rufus, but also in others among yourselves,^h and in Paul himself, and the other apostles; being confident of this, that all these have not run in vain, but in faith and righteousness: and that they are gone to the place which was due to them, in the presence of the Lord, with whom also they suffered. For they loved not this present world, but him that died for us, and was raised again by God for our sake.

10. 'Stand therefore in these things, and follow the example of the Lord, being firm and immutable in the faith, lovers of the brotherhood, lovers of one another, companions together in the truth, being kind and gentle towards each other, despising none. When it is in your power to do good, defer it not, for "charity delivereth from death."^k "Be all of you subject one to another, having your conversation honest among the gentiles,"^l that by your good works both ye yourselves may receive praise, and the Lord may not be blasphemed through you.^m But woe to him by whom

^h οὐμᾶ—*Dodwell*, in his *Dissertationes Cyprianicæ*, Diss. xi. 27. supposes οὐμᾶ to be the correct reading: and imagines that Polycarp is speaking of a persecution which took place in his own time, either in the church of Smyrna or in that of Philippi.

ⁱ Sections 10, 11, 12 are lost in the Greek. The loss is supplied by the old Latin version.

^k Tobit xii. 9.

^l 1 Pet. ii. 12.

^m Rom. ii. 24. Tit. ii. 5.

the name of the Lord is blasphemed. Wherefore teach all men sobriety, in which do ye also exercise yourselves.

11. I am greatly afflicted for Valens, who was once made a Presbyter among you; that he should so little understand the place that was given unto him. Wherefore I admonish you that ye abstain from concupiscence;ⁿ and that ye be chaste and true of speech. Keep yourselves from all evil.^o For he that in these things cannot govern himself, how shall he be able to prescribe them to another? If a man doth not keep himself from concupiscence, he shall be polluted with idolatry,^p and he shall be judged as if he were a gentile. But who of you are ignorant of the judgment of God? “Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world,”^q as Paul teaches? But I have neither perceived nor heard any thing of the kind in you, among whom the blessed Paul laboured; and who are named in the beginning of his epistle.^r For he glories of you in all the churches which alone had then known God: for we had not yet known him. Where-

ⁿ The old Latin translation has *avaritia*: the Greek probably had *πλεονεξία*. That this word should, in many places, be rendered in the sense here given, is fully shewn by Suicer on the words *πλεονεκτέω* and *πλεονεξία*, and by Hammond on Rom. i. 29. and 1 Cor. v. 10. See also Paley, Ser. xlii. Edit. 1825.

It appears from what follows, that both Valens and his wife had fallen into adultery.

^o 1 Thess. v. 22.

^p Col. iii. 5. Eph. v. 5.

^q 1 Cor. vi. 2.

^r Phil. i.

fore, brethren, I am exceedingly sorry both for him, and for his wife: may God grant them true repentance. And be ye also moderate on this occasion; and consider not such as enemies, but call them back, as suffering and erring members, that ye may save your whole body. For by so doing ye edify yourselves.

12. For I trust that ye are well exercised in the Holy Scriptures, and that nothing is hid from you. But at present it is not granted unto me to practise that which is written, "Be ye angry and sin not," and "Let not the sun go down upon your wrath."¹ Blessed is he that believeth and remembereth these things; which also I trust ye do. Now the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and he himself who is our everlasting High-priest, the Son of God, even Jesus Christ, build you up in faith and truth, and in all meekness and lenity, and in patience and long-suffering, and forbearance and chastity: and grant unto you a lot and portion among his saints, and unto us with you, and unto all that are under heaven, who shall believe in our Lord Jesus Christ, and in his Father who raised him from the dead.² Pray for all the saints. Pray also for kings, and authorities, and princes, and for those who persecute you and hate you, and for the enemies of

¹ Ps. iv. 5. Eph. iv. 26.

² Gal. i. 1.

the cross: that your fruit may be manifest in all, and that ye may be perfect in Christ.

13. Both ye and Ignatius wrote to me,^u that if any one went (hence) into Syria, he should also bring back your letters with him: which also I will do, if I have a convenient opportunity, either by myself, or by him whom I shall send upon your account. The Epistles of Ignatius which he wrote unto us,^x and others as many as we have with us, we have sent to you, according to your order; which are subjoined to this Epistle; from which ye may be greatly profited. For they treat of faith and patience, and of all things which pertain to edification in our Lord.

14. What ye know certainly of Ignatius, and those that are with him, signify unto us.

These things have I written unto you by Crescens, whom by this present Epistle I have recommended to you, and do now again commend. For he hath had his conversation without blame among us, and I trust in like manner also with you. You will also have regard unto his sister when she shall come unto you. Be ye safe in the Lord Jesus Christ: and his grace be with you all. Amen.

^u See Ignatius' Epistle to the Smyrneans, Sect. 11.

^x The two Epistles which Ignatius wrote, one to Polycarp, the other to the Church of the Smyrneans.

THE
EPISTLE OF IGNATIUS
TO THE
EPHESIANS.

IGNATIUS, who is also called Theophorus,^{*} to the Church which is at Ephesus in Asia, deservedly

* **Theophorus.** All Christians were denominated Theophori, (*θεοφόροι*) Temples of God, and sometimes Christophori (Euseb. viii. 10. Ignat. Ep. to Ephes. 9. Compare Magnes. 12.) Temples of Christ. The reason of the appellation, which was constantly applied to Ignatius, both by himself and others, is given in the history of his Martyrdom, Sect. 2. “As soon then as he stood in the presence of the Emperor Trajan, the Emperor demanded of him, ‘Who art thou, unhappy and deluded man, who art so active in transgressing our commands, and, besides, persuadest others to their own destruction?’” Ignatius replied, “No one ought to call (one who is properly styled) Theophorus, unhappy and deluded: for the evil spirits (which delude men) are departed far from the servants of God. But if you so call me because I am a trouble to those evil spirits, and an enemy to their delusions, I confess the justice of the appellation. For having (within me) Christ the heavenly king, I loosen all their snares.” Trajan replied, “and who is Theophorus?” Ignatius answered, “He that hath Christ in his heart.” Then answered Trajan, “Carriest thou, then, within thee him who was crucified?” “Yea,” replied Ignatius, “for it is written, ‘I will dwell in them and walk in them.’” (2 Cor. vi. 16.)

The

happy, being blessed through the greatness and fulness^b of God the Father, and predestinated before the world began that it should be always unto an enduring and unchangeable glory; being united and chosen through actual suffering,^c according to the will of the Father, and Jesus Christ our God, all happiness, by Jesus Christ, and his undefiled grace.

1. I HAVE heard of your name which is much beloved in God, that which ye have attained by a habit of righteousness, according to the faith and love which is in Jesus Christ our Savionr; that being followers of God, and stirring up yourselves by the blood of God,^d ye have perfectly accomplished the work which was agreeable to your

The notion of the later Greeks, that Ignatius was called Theophorus (*Θεόφορος*, borne by God) because he was the child whom Christ took up in his arms, (Matt. xviii. 2. Mark ix. 36.) although adopted by several writers, is a mere fancy. Had such a tradition existed even in the time of Chrysostom, he would surely have known it, and was not of a disposition to have omitted it, in the Homily which he composed on the Martyrdom of Ignatius: whereas he there expressly states, that Ignatius never saw Jesus, nor had any intercourse with him. (Homil. on Ignatius, Vol. v. p. 503. 37. Savile).

^b Eph. iii. 19.

^c ἐν πάθει αληθινῷ. Archbishop Wake follows the interpretation proposed by Smith, "chosen through (his) true passion," through the meritorious sufferings of Christ, which he truly underwent. Compare Epist. to the Trallians, 9, 10.

^d Compare Acts xx. 28. "Feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood."

nature. For hearing that I came bound from Syria, for the name and hope that are common to us all, trusting through your prayers to fight with beasts at Rome, that so by suffering martyrdom I may become indeed the disciple of him, who gave himself to God, an offering and sacrifice for us,^{*} (ye hastened to see me.) I received therefore in the name of God your whole multitude in (the person of) Onesimus,['] who for his love hath no word by which he can be described, but according to the flesh is your bishop: whom I beseech you in Jesus Christ to love, and that ye would all strive to be like unto him. And blessed be God, who hath granted unto you, who are so worthy of him, to possess such a bishop.

2. But with regard to my fellow-servant Bur-rhus, your deacon, in the service of God, blessed in all things, I entreat you that he may remain to the honour both of you and of your bishop. And Crocus also, worthy both of God and of you, whom I have received as a pattern of your love, hath in all things refreshed[¶] me, as (I pray) the

^{*} Eph. v. 2.

['] Compare the Epistle to the Magnesians, Sect. 6. Some suppose this Onesimus to be the servant of Philemon, who is mentioned as the first Bishop of Beroea, in the Apostolical Constitutions, Book vii. 46. Although that book is not genuine, it may yet have preserved the tradition of such a fact, and he might have been removed to Ephesus. The name of Onesimus was, however, by no means uncommon at that time.

[¶] πολλάκις με ἀνέκανσεν, ὡς καὶ αὐτὸν ὁ πατὴρ Ἰησοῦν Χριστοῦ ἀναψύξαι.

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ may refresh him, together with Onesimus, and Burrhus, and Euplus, and Fronto, in whom I have, as to your charity, seen you all. May I always have joy of you,^b if I shall be worthy of it. It is therefore fitting that ye should by all means glorify Jesus Christ, who hath glorified you: that by an uniform obedience ye may be perfectly joined together in the same mind, and in the same judgment, and may all speak alike concerning every thing;ⁱ and that being subject to the Bishop and the Presbytery ye may be altogether sanctified.

3. These things I command you not, as if I were any one.^k For although I am even bound for his name, I am not yet perfect in Jesus Christ. But now I begin to learn; and I speak to you as my fellow-disciples. For I ought to have been stirred up by you, in faith, in admonition, in patience, in long-suffering. But forasmuch as charity suffers me not to be silent towards you, I have therefore first taken upon me to exhort you, that ye would all run together according to the will of God. For Jesus Christ, our inseparable life, he is by the will of the Father:ⁱ as also the

ἀναψυξαι.—See 1 Cor. xvi. 18. 2 Cor. vii. 13. and 2 Tim. i. 16.

^b Philemon, v. 20. ⁱ 1 Cor. i. 10. ^k Comp. Acts v. 26.

^l Ἰησοῦς Χριστὸς—τοῦ πατρὸς ἡ γνῶμη. “Jesus Christ—is the Will of the Father.” Smith proposes to read τῇ γνώμῃ, which is adopted in the text.

bishops, appointed unto the utmost bounds of the earth, are by the will of Jesus Christ.

4. Wherefore it becomes you to run together according to the will of your bishop, even as also ye do. For your renowned Presbytery, worthy of God, is fitted as exactly to the Bishop, as the strings are to an harp.^m Wherefore, in your concord and harmonious love, Jesus Christ is sung. And every single person among you makes up the chorus; that all being harmonious in concord, taking up the song of God in perfect unity, ye may sing with one voice to the Father, through Jesus Christ; to the end that he may both hear you, and perceive by your works that ye are members of his Son. Wherefore it is profitable for you to live in an unblameable unity, that ye may always have fellowship with God.

5. But if I, in this little time, have had such a familiarity with your bishop, (whom I have known) not in the flesh but in the spirit, how much more must I think you happy, who are so joined to him as the Church is to Jesus Christ, and Jesus Christ to the Father, that all things may agree together in unity. Let no man deceive himself. Except a man be within the altar, he is deprived of the bread of God. For if the prayer of one or two be of such avail,ⁿ how much more

^m See the Epistle to the Philadelphians. Sect. 1.

ⁿ Jas. v. 16. Matt. xviii. 19.

shall that of the Bishop and the whole Church be? He therefore that comes not together into the same place with it, he is proud already, and hath condemned himself.^o For it is written,^p "God resisteth the proud." Let us take heed, therefore, that we set not ourselves against the Bishop, that we may be subject to God.

6. The more any one sees his bishop silent, the more let him revere him. For whomsoever the master of the house sends to be over his own household, we ought to receive him, even as we would him that sent him. It is evident, therefore, that we ought to respect the bishop, even as the Lord himself. And indeed Onesimus himself greatly commends your good order in God; in that ye all live according to the truth, and no heresy dwells among you. For neither do ye hearken to any one more than to Jesus Christ, speaking to you in truth.

7. For some there are who are wont to carry about the name (of Christ) in deceitfulness, but do things unworthy of God; whom ye must avoid, as ye would wild beasts. For they are ravening dogs, which bite secretly; of whom ye must beware, as of men hardly to be cured. There is one physician, both carnal and spiritual; create and uncreate;^q God, manifest in the flesh; true

^o Compare John iii. 18.

^p Jas. iv. 6.

^q γενητὸς καὶ ἀγένητος. This is the reading adopted by Smith.

life,' in death; both of Mary, and of God: first capable of suffering, and then liable to suffer no more, (even Jesus Christ our Lord.)'

Smith. The other editions have γενητὸς καὶ ἀγένητος, "begotten and unbegotten." Bull, (Defensio Fid. Nic. Cap. ii. 2. s. 6.) although he reads γενητὸς καὶ ἀγένητος translates the words "create and uncreate," following the old Latin version, and Athanasius de Synodis Arim. et Seleuc. Tom. i. 922.

Πεπείσμεθα ὅτι καὶ ὁ μακάριος Ἰγνάτιος ὄρθως ἔγραψε, γενητὸν αὐτὸν λέγων διὰ τὴν σάρκα· ὁ γὰρ Χριστὸς σάρξ ἐγένετο· ἀγένητον δὲ, ὅτι μὴ τῶν τοιημάτων καὶ γενητῶν ἔστιν, ἀλλ' νιὸς ἐκ πατρὸς.

"We are persuaded, that the blessed Ignatius also did well declare in his writings, respecting Christ, that he was made according to the flesh, for Christ was made flesh: and that he was uncreate, because he is not among those things which were created and formed, but the Son proceeding of the Father."

Cotelerius shews that γενητὸς and γενητὸς, ἀγένητος and ἀγένητος have been not unfrequently confounded. This confusion may have sometimes arisen from the errors of transcribers; but, before the council of Nice the distinction between the words was not so scrupulously observed as it was afterwards. Origen was censured for calling the Son γενητὸς Θεός although in another part of his works (Contra Celsum vi. 17.) he expressly calls him ἀγένητος. See Burton, Testimonies of the Antenicene Fathers, No. 12. Suicer, Thesaurus; on the words ἀγένητος and γενητὸς. Theodoret reads γενητὸς ἐξ ἀγενῆτος, "begotten of him who is unbegotten."

Tertullian De Carne Christi, Cap. 5. has a plain reference to this passage of Ignatius: "Ita utriusque substantiae census hominem et Deum exhibuit: hinc natum, inde non natum; hinc carneum, inde spiritalem; hinc infirmum, inde præfortex: hinc morientem, inde viventem. Quæ proprietas conditionum, divinæ et humanæ, æquâ utique naturæ utriusque veritate dispuncta est, eâdem fide et spiritûs et carnis."

* ἐν θανάτῳ ζωῆ ἀληθινῇ. This seems to be the true reading, instead of ἐν αθανάτῳ ζωῆ ἀληθινῇ, words which convey no distinct meaning.

* These words are added in the old Latin version, and in
the

8. Wherefore let no man deceive you: as indeed ye are not deceived, being wholly (the servants) of God. For inasmuch as there is no contention nor strife among you, which can trouble you, doubtless ye live according to God's will. May my soul be for yours; and I myself be the expiatory offering for your church of Ephesus, so famous to all ages. They that are of the flesh cannot do the works of the Spirit; neither they that are of the Spirit the works of the flesh.^t As also faith cannot do the works of unfaithfulness, nor unfaithfulness the works of faith. But even those things which ye do according to the flesh are spiritual; for ye do all things in Jesus Christ.

9. Nevertheless, I have heard of some who have passed by you, having perverse doctrine; whom ye did not suffer to sow among you; but stopped your ears that ye might not receive those things which were sown by them, as being the stones^u of the temple of the Father, prepared for the building of God the Father, raised up on high by the engine of Jesus Christ, which is the cross; and using the Holy Ghost as the rope. And your faith is your support:^x and your charity the way which

the passage as quoted in the 5th Century by Theodoret, Epist. ad Monachos Constantinopolitanos, and Gelasius, at the end of his work De duabus naturis Christi.

^t Gal. v. 17. ^u Eph. ii. 20, 21, 22. 1 Pet. ii. 5.

^x ἀναγωγέω. Vossius thinks this word here signifies a pulley. ἀγωγέω is sometimes used for the rein with which a horse

leads to God. Ye are, therefore, and all your companions, full of God, his (spiritual) temples, full of Christ, full of holiness: adorned in all things with the commands of Christ: in whom also I rejoice that I have been thought worthy by this present epistle to converse, and joy together with you; that with respect to the other life, ye love nothing but God only.

10. Pray also without ceasing¹ for other men. For there is hope of repentance in them, that they may attain unto God. Suffer them, therefore, to receive instruction of you if it be only from your works. To their anger, be ye meek; to their boastings, be ye humble; to their blasphemies (return) your prayers; to their error (oppose) your firmness in the faith; to their cruelty, be ye gentle; not studying in return to imitate them. Let us be

horse is guided. Ignatius probably alludes to the metaphor used by St. Paul in writing to the same Ephesians, Eph. ii. 20. &c. He compares the faithful to the stones composing the Temple of the Father, Jesus Christ to an engine by which they are raised on high, the Holy Spirit to the rope by which they are drawn, faith to the pully or windlass, and charity to the levelled road along which the stones are drawn from the quarry. Comparisons of this kind, carried even to a greater degree of minuteness, are common in the early Christian writers. Those who object to them, as opposed to our present notions of taste, must remember that refinement upon such points formed no part of the habits of those who were addressed: and that the writings of St. Paul, as for instance Eph. vi. 14—18, owe much beautiful and forcible illustration to comparisons of a similar nature.

¹ 1 Thess. v. 17.

found their brethren in moderation, and study to be followers of the Lord: for who was ever more unjustly used, more destitute, more despised? that no herb^a of the devil may be found in you; but ye may remain in all holiness and sobriety in Christ Jesus, both bodily and spiritually.^a

11. The last times are at hand. Let us reverence, let us fear the long-suffering of God, that it be not to us unto condemnation. For let us either fear the wrath to come, or love the grace that we at present enjoy; one of the two: only that we be found in Christ Jesus unto true life. Let nothing become you, besides him; for whom also I bear about these bonds, these spiritual jewels,^b in which I would to God that I might arise, through your prayers; of which I entreat you to make me always partaker, that I may be found in the lot of the Christians of Ephesus, who have always agreed with the apostles, through the power of Jesus Christ.

12. I know who I am; and to whom I write. I, a person condemned; ye, such as have obtained mercy; I, exposed to danger; ye, established. Ye are the passage of those that are killed for God; who have been instructed in the mysteries

^a This is a favourite metaphor with Ignatius, to signify false doctrine; compare his Epistle to the Philadelphians, Sect. 3. and Epistle to the Trallians, Sect. 6.

^a 1 Cor. vii. 34.

^b See the Epistle of Polycarp, Sect. 1.

of the gospel^c with Paul, who was sanctified, and bore testimony even unto death, and is deservedly most happy ; at whose feet I would that I might be found, when I shall have attained unto God ; who throughout all his Epistle makes mention of you in Christ Jesus.

13. Let it be your care, therefore, to come more frequently together to the praise^d and glory of God. For when ye frequently meet together in the same place, the powers of Satan are destroyed, and his mischief is dissolved by the unity of your faith. Nothing is better than peace ; by which all war is abolished, whether of heavenly or of earthly things.

14. Of all which nothing is hid from you, if ye have perfect faith and charity in Christ Jesus,

^c συμμίσται. Baptized Christians were denominated μύσται and οἱ μεμνημένοι, the initiated, while the Catechumens were called ἀμύσται, ἀμύηται, and ἀμύσταγωγῆται, uninitiated, as not yet admitted to the use of the sacred offices, and knowledge of the mysteries of the Christian religion. Hence the phrase ἵστασι οἱ μεμνημένοι, the initiated know what is said, so constantly used in the early homilies and addresses to the people, when any reference is made to the higher doctrines of Christianity. Casaubon observes that this phrase occurs fifty times in the writings of Chrysostom and Austin. See Cave's Primitive Christianity, Part i. ch. 8. Bingham's Antiquities of the Christian Church, Book i. ch. iv. 2.

^d εἰς ἐνχαριστίαν Θεοῦ καὶ εἰς δόξαν. He exhorts them to frequently gathering themselves together, for public worship, and especially to the celebration of the Eucharist, in which an offering of praise and thanksgiving is made to God. Compare 1 Cor. xi. 18—20.

which are the beginning and end of life: the beginning, faith; the end, charity. And these two, being in unity, are of God. And all other things which concern a holy life are the consequences of these. No man, who professes the true faith, sins: neither doth he, who hath charity, hate. The tree is made manifest by its fruit.^e So they who profess themselves to be Christians, shall be made known by their deeds. For now (Christianity) is not the work of an outward profession, but (shews itself) in the power of faith, if a man be found (faithful) unto the end.

15. It is better to be silent, and to be; than to say (a man is a Christian) and not to be. It is good to teach, if he who speaks, acts. He therefore is the only Master, who spake, and it was done.^f And even those things, which he did in silence,^g are worthy of the Father. He that possesses the word of Jesus is truly able to hear even his silence, that he may be perfect: and may both do according to what he speaks, and be known by those things of which he is silent. There is nothing hid from God: but even our secret things are nigh unto him. Let us therefore do all things as becomes those who have God dwelling in them; that we may be his temple; and he may be one God within us; as also he is, and will manifest himself before our

^e Matt. xii. 33.

^f Ps. xxxiii. 9.

^g Those actions which Christ performed in all humility.

faces, by those things for which we justly love him.

16. Be not deceived, my brethren. Those who corrupt houses (by adultery) shall not inherit the kingdom of God.^b If therefore they who do this according to the flesh, have suffered death;^c how much more shall he die, who by his wicked doctrine corrupts the faith of God, for which Christ was crucified? He that is thus defiled, shall depart into unquenchable fire; and in like manner he that hearkens to him.

17. For this cause did the Lord receive ointment upon his head,^d that he might breathe (the breath of) immortality into his Church.^e Be not ye therefore anointed with the evil savour of the doctrine of the Prince of this world. Let him not take you captive from the life that is set before you. And why are ye not all wise, seeing ye have received the knowledge of God, which is Jesus Christ. Why do we perish in our folly, ignorant of the gift which the Lord hath truly sent us?

18. Let my life be sacrificed for the doctrine of the cross, which is a stumbling block to them that believe not, but to us is salvation and life everlasting.^m Where is the wise? Where is the disputer?ⁿ Where is the boasting of those who

^b 1 Cor. vi. 9, 10.

^c 1 Cor. x. 8.

^d Ps. XLIV. 8. cxxxii. 2.

^e Compare Joh. xx. 22.

^m 1 Cor. i. 18—23, 24.

ⁿ 1 Cor. i. 20.

are called men of understanding? For our God Jesus Christ was borne in the womb of Mary, according to the dispensation of God, of the seed of David, yet by the Holy Ghost. He was born, and was baptized, that through his passion, he might purify water (to the washing away of sin).

19. And the Prince of this world knew not the virginity of Mary,^o and him who was born of her, and the death of the Lord: three mysteries every where noised abroad, yet done by God in silence. How then was he manifested to the world? A star shone in heaven above all other

^o It was a favourite notion with the early Christian writers, that Mary was espoused to Joseph before the birth of Jesus, that his being born of a virgin might escape the knowledge of Satan. Thus Theophilus, the sixth bishop of Antioch, in the Latin version of his commentary on St. Matthew's Gospel, i. 18. has this observation. "Quare non ex simplici virgine, sed ex desponsatâ concipitur Christus? Primò, ut per generationem Joseph origo Mariæ monstraretur: secundò, ne lapidaretur à Judæis ut adultera: tertio, ut in Ægyptum haberet solarium viri: quartò, ut partus ejus falleret diabolum, putantem Jesum de uxoratâ, non de Virgine natum." Jerome ascribes this very reason to Ignatius, "Martyr Ignatius etiam quartam addit causam cur à desponsatâ conceptus sit, ut partus, inquiens, ejus celaretur à diabolo, dum eum putat non de virgine sed de uxore generatum." Basil, in his Sermon on the Nativity of Christ, quotes the same opinion. These passages appear to be allusions to this Epistle of Ignatius. Origen, in his sixth homily on St. Luke, translated by Jerome says, "Eleganter in cuiusdam Martyris Epistolâ scriptum reperi, Ignatium dico, Episcopum Antiochiæ post Petrum secundum, qui in persecutione Romæ pugnavit ad bestias, Principem sæculi hujus latuit virginitas Mariæ." Pearson *Vindiciae Ignatianæ*, Par. 1. cap. 2.

stars; and its light was inexpressible; and its novelty struck terror. All the rest of the stars, with the sun and moon, were the chorus to this star; and that sent forth its light above all. And there was trouble, whence this novelty came, so unlike to all the others. Hence all (the power of) magic was dissolved; and every bond of wickedness was destroyed: ignorance was taken away; the old kingdom was abolished; God being made manifest in the form of a man, for the renewal of eternal life. Thence began what God had prepared. From thenceforth all things were disturbed, forasmuch as he designed to abolish death.

20. But if Jesus Christ shall give me grace through your prayers, and it be his will, I purpose in a second Epistle, which I am about to write to you, to declare more fully to you the dispensation of which I have now begun to speak, unto the new man, which is Jesus Christ: both in his faith and charity; in his suffering, and in his resurrection, especially if the Lord shall make it known unto me by revelation:^p since ye all individually come together in common in one faith, and in one Jesus Christ, who was of the race of David according to the flesh, the Son of man, and the Son of God: obeying your Bishop and the Presbytery with an entire affection: breaking one bread, which is the medicine of immortality; our antidote, that

^p Compare 1 Cor. xiv. 30.

we should not die, but live for ever in Jesus Christ.

21. My soul be for yours, and for those whom ye have sent, for the glory of God, to Smyrna, whence also I write unto you, giving thanks unto the Lord; and loving Polycarp, even as I do you. Remember me, even as Jesus Christ doth remember you. Pray for the Church which is in Syria, whence I am being carried bound ^a to Rome, being the least of all the faithful that are there, as I have been deemed worthy to be found to the glory of God. Farewell in God the Father, and in Jesus Christ, our common hope.

^a Ignatius was bound in chains, at Antioch in Syria, and there delivered to the soldiers to be carried to Rome, as he expresses in his Epistle to the Romans.

THE
EPISTLE OF IGNATIUS
TO THE
MAGNESIANS.

IGNATIUS, who is also called Theophorus, to the (Church) blessed by the grace of God the Father, in Jesus Christ our Saviour; in whom I salute the Church which is at Magnesia, near the Maeander; and wish it all joy, in God the Father, and in Jesus Christ.

1. HAVING heard of your well ordered love and charity in God, I determined, with much joy, to speak unto you in the faith of Jesus Christ. For having been thought worthy to obtain a most excellent name, in the bonds which I carry about, I salute the churches, wishing in them an union both of the body and spirit of Jesus Christ, our eternal life; (as also) of faith and charity, to which nothing is to be preferred; but especially of Jesus and the Father, in whom if we undergo all the injuries of the Prince of this world, and escape, we shall enjoy God.

2. Seeing then that I have been thought worthy to see you, by Damas^a your godly and excellent Bishop, and by your worthy Presbyters, Bassus and Apollonius; and by my fellow servant Sotio the Deacon, in whom I rejoice, forasmuch as he is subject unto his Bishop as unto the grace of God, and to the Presbytery, as unto the law of Jesus Christ, (I determined to write unto you.)

3. It is your duty also not to despise the youth of your Bishop, but to yield all reverence to him, according to the power of God the Father. As also I perceive your holy Presbyters do, not considering his youthful appearance,^b but as men prudent in God, submitting to him; and not to him (indeed), but to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Bishop of us all. It becomes you therefore to be obedient with all sincerity, in honour of him whose pleasure it is (that ye should do so). For, otherwise, a man deceives not this Bishop whom he sees, but affronts him who is invisible. For whatsoever of this kind is done, it reflects not upon men, but upon God, who knows the secrets of our hearts.

^a Compare Ignatius' Epist. to Ephes. Sect. 1. Eusebius, Eccles. Hist. iii. 36. says that Ignatius wrote an Epistle to the church in Magnesia near the Maeander, in which he makes mention of their bishop Damas.

^b τὴν φαινομένην νεωτερικὴν ταύχιν—This may refer either to his youth, or to his recent ordination.

4. It is therefore fitting that we should not only be called Christians, but be so: as some call a Bishop by the name (of his office,) but do all things without him. But such men appear to me void of a good conscience, since they are not gathered together firmly, according to God's commandments.

5. Seeing then all things have an end, there are set before us at once these two things, death and life: and every one shall depart into his proper place. For as there are two sorts of coins, the one of God, the other of the world, each having its own stamp impressed upon it,^c so the unfaithful bear the mark of this world, and the faithful in charity that of God the Father through Jesus Christ, through whom unless we hold ourselves in readiness to die, after the likeness of his passion, his life is not in us.

6. Forasmuch, then, as I have seen in faith and love your whole multitude, in the persons of whom I have before written, I exhort you that ye study to do all things in a divine concord; your Bishop presiding in the place of God, and your Presbyters in the place of the council of the Apostles, and your Deacons, most dear to me, being entrusted with the ministry of Jesus Christ, who was with the Father before all ages, and in the end hath appeared.^d Do ye all, therefore, be in

^c Compare Rev. xiii. 16.

^d Heb. i. 2. ix. 26.

subjection one to another,^e following the same holy course. And let no man look upon his neighbour after the flesh, but in all things love ye one another in Jesus Christ. Let there be nothing among you which can cause a division; but be ye united to your Bishop, and to those who preside over you, to be your pattern and direction^f unto immortality.

7. As therefore the Lord did nothing without the Father,^g being united to Him; neither by himself nor yet by his Apostles, in like manner do ye nothing without the Bishop and the Presbyters. Neither endeavour that any thing may appear reasonable unto yourselves privately; but being come together into one place, have one prayer, one supplication, one mind, one hope, in love and in joy undefiled.^h There is one (Lord) Jesus Christ, than whom nothing is better. Wherefore come ye all together, as unto one temple of God, as unto one altar, as unto one Jesus Christ, who proceeded from one Father, and exists in One, and is returned (to One).ⁱ

8. Be not deceived with strange doctrines, nor with old fables which are unprofitable.^k For if we still continue to live according to the Jewish law, we acknowledge that we have not received

^e Eph. v. 21. ^f Compare Rom. vi. 17. Phil. iii. 17.

^g Joh. x. 30. xiv. 11, 12. xvii. 21, 22.

^h Eph. iv. 3—6. ⁱ Joh. xvi. 28. ^k Tit. iii. 9.

grace.¹ For even the most holy prophets lived according to Christ Jesus. For this cause they were persecuted also, being inspired by his grace, fully to convince the unbelievers that there is One God, who hath manifested himself by Jesus Christ his Son; who is his eternal word,^m not coming forth from silence,ⁿ who in all things was well-pleasing to him that sent him.

9. If, therefore, they who were brought up in these ancient laws, have come to the newness of hope, no longer observing sabbaths, but keeping the Lord's day,^o in which also our life is sprung up by him, and through his death, which (yet) some

¹ Gal. v. 4.

^m Joh. i. 1.

ⁿ See note (C) at the end of the volume.

^o The error here pointed out is that of observing the Jewish Sabbath, to the neglect of the Lord's day. That the first day of the week was constantly observed by the early Christians is plain, as well from instances in the New Testament, in which the habitual assembling of Christians, and their celebration of the holy sacrament, on that day, are distinctly ascertained, (Acts xx. 7. 1 Cor. xvi. 2. compared with 1 Cor. xi 20.) as from the testimony of Justin Martyr (Apol. Sect. 89.) Tertullian, (Apol. c. 16.) and others. It was kept so strictly as a festival, that fasting was forbidden on that day. Die Dominico jejunium nefas ducimus. (Tertullian de Coronâ Militis. cap. 3.)

The seventh day of the week, which is always designated by the word Sabbatum, in the early Christian writers, was also observed as a religious festival. Even the Montanists, although very anxious to introduce severe discipline in the observance of fasts, abstained from fasting on Saturday and Sunday, when they kept their two weeks of Xerophagiæ. Duas in anno hebdomadas Xerophagiarum, nec totas, exceptis scilicet Sabbatis et Dominicis, offerimus Deo. (Tertullian de Jejuniis, c. 15.)

The

deny :—By which mystery we have been brought to believe, and therefore wait, that we may be found the disciples of Jesus Christ our only teacher :—How shall we be able to live without him, whose disciples the very prophets were, and whom by the Spirit they expected as their teacher ? And therefore he, whom they righteously waited for, being come, raised them up from the dead.

10. Let us then not be insensible of his goodness. For if he had dealt with us according to our works, we should not now have had a being. Wherefore being become his disciples, let us learn to live a Christian life. For whosoever is called by any other name besides this, is not of God. Lay aside therefore the evil leaven, which is grown

The Saturday before Easter day was, however, observed as a fast. In the Apostolical Constitutions, which may be taken to represent the usage of the Church in the fourth century, sentence of suspension is denounced against any of the Clergy who should fast on Saturday or Sunday. (Canon 64.) This observance, which probably arose from a desire of conciliating the Jewish converts, continued in the Eastern Church for many centuries. In the Western Church, Saturday was usually observed as a fast. The custom, however, was not general even in Italy. Ambrose, bishop of Milan, in the fourth century, when he was at Rome, observed the day as a fast, but at Milan made no such distinction between Saturday and the rest of the week. His answer to Augustine, who consulted him upon the point, has become almost proverbial. “When I come to Rome, I fast on Saturday, as they do at Rome ; when I am here I observe no fast. In like manner my advice is that you observe the custom of every church, where you happen to be.” (Augustine ad Januar. Epist. 118. Cave’s Primitive Christianity, Part 1. ch. 7. Bp. Kaye’s Tertullian, chap. vi. p. 409. 1st edit.)

old, and sour; and be changed into the new leaven, which is Jesus Christ. Be ye salted in him, lest any of you should be corrupted, for by your savour ye shall be judged. It is absurd to name Christ Jesus, and to be still a Jew. For Christianity embraced not the Jewish religion, but the Jewish the Christian: that so every tongue that believed might be gathered together unto God.

11. These things, my beloved, (I write unto you), not that I know of any among you who are thus disposed, but, as one less than yourselves, I would warn you, not to fall into the snares of vain glory, but to be fully instructed in the birth, and sufferings, and resurrection (of Christ), which was accomplished in the time of the government of Pontius Pilate; all which was truly and surely performed by Jesus Christ, our hope, from which God forbid that any of you should ever be turned aside.

12. May I have joy of you in all things, if I shall be worthy of it. For although I am bound, I am not worthy to be compared to one of you who are at liberty. I know that ye are not puffed up. For ye have Jesus Christ in your hearts. And the rather when I commend you, I know that ye are ashamed, as it is written, The just man condemneth himself.^p

13. Give diligence, therefore, to be established in the doctrines of our Lord and the Apostles, that

^p Prov. xviii. 17. Septuagint.

so whatsoever ye do, ye may prosper both in body and spirit: in faith and charity, in the Son and in the Father, and in the Spirit, in the Beginning and in the End;^a together with your most worthy Bishop, and the well-woven spiritual crown of your Presbytery, and your godly Deacons. Be subject to your Bishop, and to one another, as Jesus Christ to the Father, according to the flesh; and the Apostles to Christ and to the Father, and to the Spirit; that so there may be (among you) an union both in body and spirit.^r

14. Knowing you to be full of God, I have the more briefly exhorted you. Remember me in your prayers, that I may attain unto God; as also the Church which is in Syria, whence I am not worthy to be called. For I stand in need of your joint prayers in God, and of your charity, that the Church, which is in Syria, may be thought worthy to be nourished^s by your church.

15. The Ephesians from Smyrna, whence also I write, salute you; being present here to the glory of God, in like manner as ye are, who have in all things refreshed me, together with Polycarp, the Bishop of the Smyrneans. The rest of the Churches, in the honour of Jesus Christ, salute you. Fare ye well in the concord of God, possessing his inseparable Spirit, which is Jesus Christ.

^a Rev. i. 8.

^r Eph. iv. 4.

^s ἀρωτισθῆναι, to be bedewed. Compare Hos. xiv. 5.

THE
EPISTLE OF IGNATIUS
TO THE
TRALLIANS.

IGNATIUS, who is also called Theophorus, to the holy Church which is at Tralles in Asia, beloved of God the Father of Jesus Christ, elect and worthy of God, having peace through the flesh, and blood, and passion of Jesus Christ, our hope, in the resurrection unto him; whom also I salute in its fulness, (continuing) in the Apostolic character, wishing it all joy and happiness.

I. I HAVE heard of your blameless and constant disposition through patience, which not only appears in your outward conversation, but is naturally rooted and grounded in you; even as Polybius^a your bishop hath declared unto me; who came to me at Smyrna, by the will of God and Jesus Christ, and so rejoiced with me in my bonds for Jesus Christ, that I saw your whole assembly in him. Having therefore received by him the

^a Eusebius mentions this Polybius, in his account of this Epistle. H. E. iii. 36.

testimony of your good will towards me for God's sake, I seemed to find you, as I knew ye were, the followers of God.

2. For inasmuch as ye are subject to your Bishop as to Jesus Christ, ye appear to me to live not after the manner of men, but according to Jesus Christ, who died for us, in order that, believing in his death, ye may escape death. It is therefore necessary that ye do nothing without your Bishop, even as ye are wont: and that ye be also subject to the Presbytery as to the Apostles of Jesus Christ, our hope, in whom if we walk, we shall be found (in him).^b The Deacons also, as being the (ministers) of the mysteries of Jesus Christ, must by all means please all. For they are not the ministers of meat and drink, but of the Church of God. Wherefore they must avoid all offences, as (they would avoid) fire.

3. In like manner, let all reverence the Deacons as Jesus Christ, and the Bishop as the Father; and the Presbyters as the council of God, and the assembly of the Apostles. Without these there is no Church. Concerning all which I am persuaded that ye think after the very same manner. For I have received, and even now have with me, the pattern of your love in your Bishop: whose very look is much instruction, and his mildness, power: whom I am persuaded that even the ungodly rever-

^b Compare Philip. iii. 9.

ence. But because I have a love towards you, I will not write any more sharply unto you about this matter, although I very well might; I have even taken so much upon myself, who am but a condemned (captive), as to command you as if I were an apostle.

4. I know many things in God ; but I refrain myself, lest I should perish in my boasting. For now I ought the more to fear, and not hearken to those that would puff me up. For they, who (so) speak to me, chasten me. I love to suffer, but I know not if I be worthy. And this desire, though to others it doth not appear, yet to myself is (on that account) the more violent. I have, therefore, need of moderation, by which the Prince of this world is destroyed.

5. Am I not able to write to you of heavenly things ? But I fear lest I should harm you who are babes in Christ : excuse me (this care) : lest, not being able to receive them, ye should be choked

** ὁ λογίζομαι καὶ τὸν ἀθέους ἐντρέπεσθαι. αγαπῶτας ὡς οὐ φειδομαι ἑαυτὸν πότερον, δυνάμενος γράφειν ὑπὲρ τούτου εἰς τοῦτο φῆθην, ἵνα ὡν κατάκριτος ὡς ἀπόστολος ὑμῖν διατάσσωμαι.* This passage is evidently corrupted, and was so, before the old Latin Version was made, which is here only a verbal translation of the separate Greek words. Salmasius, Pearson, and Smith all endeavour to explain the passage, without success. The translation in the text is that of Archbishop Wake. It is founded upon the reading suggested by the corresponding passage in the interpolated Epistle: *'Αγαπῶν ὑμᾶς φειδομαι συντονωτερον ἐπιστεῖλαι' κ. τ. λ.*

with them. For even I myself, although I am in bonds, yet am not therefore able to understand heavenly things, as the orders of the angels, and the several companies of them under their respective princes, things visible and invisible: but in these I am yet a learner. For many things are wanting to us, that we come not short of God.

6. I exhort you therefore (or rather) not I, but the love of Jesus Christ, that ye use none but Christian nourishment; abstaining from all strange pasture,^d which is heresy. For such confound Jesus Christ with their own poison,^e while they seem worthy of belief. As men give a deadly potion mixed with sweet wine; which he who is ignorant of doth with the treacherous pleasure sweetly drink in his own death.^f

^d βοτάνη—Compare Ephes. x. Philadelph. iii.

^e οἱ καὶ ιοῖς παρεμπλέκουσιν Ἰησοῦν Χριστόν—Vossius's conjecture, *oi καὶ iois*, founded upon the old Latin Version and the reading of the interpolated Epistle, appears highly probable, and is here followed.

^f Compare Philadelph. ii. A similar comparison, but more poetical, is used by Chrysostom, *Contra Judæos* iii. (Tom. vi. p. 344. 24 Savile.) καθαπέρ οἱ τὰ δηλητήρια κεράννυντες φάρμακα, μέλιτι τὸ στόμα τῆς κύλικος περιχρίσιοντες, εὐπαράδεκτον πυιοῦσι τὴν βλάβην. Although Chrysostom's application is the same as that of Ignatius, it might almost be supposed that he was acquainted with the beautiful passage of Lucretius, as beautifully imitated by Tasso, in which the application is different.

Nam veluti pueris absinthia tetra medentes
 Quum dare conantur, prius oras pocula circum
 Contingunt mellis dulci flavoque liquore,
 Ut puerorum ætas improvida ludificetur

Labrorum

7. Wherefore, guard yourselves against such persons. And that ye will do, if ye are not puffed up, but continue inseparable from Jesus Christ our God, and from your Bishop, and from the commands of the Apostles. He that is within the altar is pure. But he that is without is not pure. That is, he that doeth any thing without the Bishop and the Presbyters, and the Deacons, is not pure in his conscience.

8. Not that I know there is any thing of this nature among you; but I forewarn you, as greatly beloved of me, foreseeing the snares of the devil. Wherefore putting on meekness, renew yourselves in faith, that is the flesh of the Lord, and in charity, that is the blood of Jesus Christ. Let no one of you bear a grudge against his neighbour. Give no occasion to the Gentiles, lest by means of a few foolish men, the whole congregation of God be evil spoken of. For woe to that man through whose vanity my name is blasphemed by any.^s

9. Stop your ears, therefore, when any one

*Labrorum tenuis, interea perpotet amarum
Absinthi laticem, deceptaque non capiatur,
Sed potius tali tactu recreata valescat.*

LUCRET. iv. 11.

*Così all' egro fanciul porgiamo aspersi
Di soave licor gli orli del vaso:
Succhi amari ingannato intanto ei beve,
E dall' inganno suo vita riceve.*

TASSO GER. LIB. i. 3.

^s Isai. lii. 5.

speaks to you against Jesus Christ, who was of the race of David, of the Virgin Mary: who was truly born, and did eat and drink, was truly persecuted under Pontius Pilate, was truly crucified, and died, in the sight of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth. Who also was truly raised from the dead, by his Father; after the same manner as he will also raise up us who believe in him, by Christ Jesus, without whom we have no true life.

10. But if, as some who are Atheists,^h that is to say, unbelievers, pretend, he suffered only in appearance—they themselves living only in appearance—why then am I bound? Why do I desire to fight with beasts? Then do I die in vain. Verily I lie not against the Lord.

11. Flee, therefore, these evil scions, which bring forth deadly fruit; of which if any one taste he shall presently die. For these are not plants of the Father.ⁱ For if they were, they would appear to be branches of the cross, and their fruit

^h This is a plain allusion to the heresy of the Docetæ, to which St. John probably refers in 1 Epist. iv. 3. “Every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh, is not of God.” They imagined that the body of our Lord was no real substance, but an unsubstantial phantom. Simon Magus is said to have been the author of this heresy. Menander, his disciple, was a contemporary of Ignatius, and is said by Justin Martyr, Apol. c. 34. to have deceived many in Antioch. Compare Ignatius’ Epistle to the Smyrneans, c. 1, 2.

ⁱ Matt. xv. 13.

would be incorruptible; by which he invites you through his passion, who are members of him. For the head cannot be without its members, God having promised an union, which is himself.

12. I salute you from Smyrna, together with the Churches of God, which are present with me, who have refreshed me in all things, both in body and in spirit. My bonds, which I carry about me for the sake of Christ, beseeching him that I may attain unto God, exhort you. Continue in concord among yourselves, and in prayer one with another. For it becomes every one of you, especially the Presbyters, to refresh the Bishop, to the honour of the Father, of Jesus Christ, and of the Apostles. I beseech you that you hearken to me, in love, that I may not, by those things which I write, rise up in witness against you. Pray also for me, who stand in need of your love, through the mercy of God, that I may be worthy of the portion which I am about to obtain, that I be not found a cast-away.^k

13. The love of those who are at Smyrna and Ephesus salutes you. Remember ye in your prayers the church of Syria, from which I am not worthy to be called, being one of the least of it. Fare ye well^l in Jesus Christ, being subject unto your Bishop, as to the command (of God), and in like manner to the Presbytery. Love every one

^k 1 Cor. ix. 27.

^l ἵππωσθε—Be strong.

his brother in simplicity of heart. May my soul be your expiation,^m not only now, but when I shall have attained unto God. For I am yet under danger. But the Father is faithful in Jesus Christ, to fulfil both my petition and yours: in whom may ye be found unblameable.

^m The Greek text here has ἀγνίζετε ὑμῶν τὸ ἐμὸν πνεῦμα. Vossius proposes to read ἀγνισμα ὑμῶν, and Cotelerius ἀγνίζηται.

THE
EPISTLE OF IGNATIUS
TO THE
ROMANS.

IGNATIUS, who is also called Theophorus, to the Church which hath obtained mercy in the Majesty of the Most High Father, and his only Son Jesus Christ, beloved and illuminated through the will of Him who willeth all things, which are according to the love of Jesus Christ, our God; (to the Church) which presides also in the place of the region of the Romans, worthy of God, and of all honour and blessing and praise; worthy to receive that which she wishes, chaste, and pre-eminent in charity, bearing the name of Christ and of the Father, which I salute in the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father: to those who are united both in flesh and spirit to all his commands, and wholly filled with the grace of God, and entirely cleansed from the stain of any other doctrine, be all undefiled joy in Jesus Christ our God.

1. FORASMUCH as, through my prayers to God, I have obtained to see your faces worthy of God,^a which I much desired to do, being bound in Christ Jesus I hope to salute you, if it shall be the will of God that I shall be thought worthy to attain unto the end. For the beginning is well disposed, if I shall but have grace, without hindrance to take upon me my lot. But I fear your love, lest it injure me. For to you it is easy to do as ye will: but to me it is difficult to attain unto God, if ye be (too) indulgent to me.

2. For I would not have you please men, but God; even as also ye do. For I shall never have such an opportunity of attaining unto God; nor will your names ever be inscribed upon a better work, if ye only keep silence. For if ye are silent with respect to me, I shall be made partaker of God: but if ye shall love my flesh, I shall again have my course to run. Ye can do me no greater favour, than to suffer me to be offered up to God, now that the altar is prepared: that when ye are gathered together in love, ye may sing praises to the Father, in Christ Jesus, that he hath vouchsafed that a Bishop of Syria^b should be found, and

^a This Epistle was written from Smyrna. But Ignatius, having set out to be brought to Rome, speaks in anticipation of his arrival.

^b Ignatius, as the Bishop of Antioch, the chief city of Syria, styles himself Bishop of Syria. Compare Sect. 9. where he refers to himself, as the shepherd of Syria.

to call him from the east unto the west. It is truly good for me to set from the world, unto God, that I may rise again unto him.

3. Ye have never envied any one; ye have taught others.^c I would therefore that those things, which ye have commanded others in your teaching, be now established among yourselves. Only pray for me, that God would give me both inward and outward strength, that I may not only say, but will: in order that I may not only be called a Christian, but be found one. For if I be so found, I may deservedly be called a Christian; and be faithful then, when I shall no longer appear to the world. Nothing that is seen is eternal; “for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.”^d For even our God, Jesus Christ, now that he is in the Father, doth the more appear.^e A Christian is not made so by the mere power of persuasion, but by greatness of mind: especially when he is hated of the world.^f

4. I write to all the churches, and signify to them all, that I am willing to die for God, unless

^c Ye have never envied any other the glory of becoming a martyr for the name of Christ; nay, ye have encouraged them by your exhortations to remain faithful unto death.

^d 2 Cor. iv. 18.

^e By the power which he infuses into his servants, enabling them to undergo all sufferings for his sake.

^f The Greek text has, οὐ σιωπήσει μόνον τὸ ἔργον, ἀλλὰ μεγέθους ἔστιν ὁ Χριστιανισμός. “The Christian religion is not to be

you hinder me. I beseech you that ye shew not an unseasonable good-will towards me. Suffer me to be the food of wild beasts, by which I may attain unto God. I am the wheat of God:^g and by the teeth of wild beasts I shall be ground, that I may be found the pure bread of Christ. Rather encourage the wild beasts, that they may become my sepulchre, and may leave nothing of my body; that when I sleep I may be burdensome to no one. Then shall I truly be a disciple of Christ, when the world shall not see so much as my body. Pray to Christ for me, that by these instruments I may be made a sacrifice (of God). I command you not, as Peter and Paul did: they were apostles, I a condemned man: they were free, but I hitherto a servant: but if I shall suffer, I shall then become the freed-man of Jesus (Christ), and shall rise free in him. And now, being in bonds, I learn to desire no worldly or vain thing.

be silently nourished, but magnanimously professed." The reading followed in the text is that of Vossius, suggested by the old Latin version, "οὐ πεισμονῆς τὸ ἔργον, ἀλλὰ μεγέθους ἐστὶν ὁ Χριστιανὸς, μάλιστα ὅταν μισῆται ὑπὸ κόσμου.

^g These remarkable words are quoted by Irenæus, v. 28. Eusebius, H.E. iii. 36. Jerome, in his catalogue of Ecclesiastical writers, the Menologia Græca, and others, say that Ignatius addressed to the people expressions of the same nature, when he was brought out before the wild beasts. "O Romans, the spectators of this contest, I am not thus condemned for any evil deed, but for the sake of my religion. For I am the wheat of God, and by the teeth of wild beasts I shall be ground, that I may be the pure bread (of Christ)."

5. From Syria even to Rome I fight with beasts both by sea and land, by night and day; being bound to ten leopards, that is to say, a band of soldiers, who even when kindly treated become the worse.^b But by their unjust treatment I am the more instructed: yet am I not thereby justified.^c May I enjoy the wild beasts which are prepared for me;^d and pray that they may be found ready for me: which I will even encourage to devour me all at once, and not fear to touch me, as they have some others. And even if they refuse, and will not, I will compel them. Bear with me (in this): I know what is profitable for me; now I begin to be a disciple.^e Let nothing, of things either visible or invisible, deprive me of attaining unto Jesus Christ. Let fire and the cross, and the companies of wild beasts, let tearings and rendings, let break-

^b This passage also is quoted by Eusebius, H. E. iii. 36. Ignatius compares the ill usage which he experienced from the soldiers to the violence with which the beasts, to which he was condemned, would treat him. "My contest with wild beasts is already begun, and continues all the way from Syria even to Rome. Rather than endure the insults, could I rejoice in the wild beasts which are prepared for me."

^c 1 Cor. iv. 4.

^d Chrysostom quotes this expression in his Homily on the martyrdom of Ignatius. The annals of the primitive martyrs present many instances, in which those who were exposed to wild beasts or subjected to other punishment, used means to accelerate their own death. See the circular Epistle of the Church of Smyrna on the martyrdom of Polycarp, c. 3.

^e Luke xiv. 27.

ings of bones, and the cutting off of limbs, let the shatterings of the whole body, and all the evil torments of the devil come upon me: only let me attain unto Jesus Christ.

6. All the pleasures of the world and the kingdoms of this life will avail me nothing. Better is it for me to die for Christ Jesus than to reign over the ends of the earth. “For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?”^m Him I seek, who died for us: him I desire, who rose again for us. This is the gain that is laid up for me.ⁿ Pardon me, brethren: hinder me not from living, let me not die,^o who am willing to be God’s. Rejoice not in the world; suffer me to enter into pure light: when I shall be there, I shall be a man of God. Suffer me to imitate the sufferings of my God. If any one hath Him within himself, let him consider what I desire, and sympathize with me, knowing how I am straitened.

7. The Prince of this world would fain carry me away, and corrupt my resolution towards my God. Let none of you therefore assist him: rather join yourselves to me, that is to God. Do not speak of Jesus Christ, and yet covet the world. Let not envy dwell in you: obey not even me, if,

^m Matt. xvi. 26.

ⁿ Col. i. 21.

^o Hinder me not from attaining immortal life, let me not die eternally, by refusing to suffer for Christ’s sake.

when I shall be present with you, I should exhort you (to the contrary) : but rather obey these commands which I write unto you. I write to you desiring to die, though I live. My love is crucified :^p and in me, who love (a heavenly object), there is no (earthly) fire ; but living water, springing up in me, saying within me, Come unto the Father.^q I delight not in the food of corruption,

^p The Greek here has, ὁ ἐμὸς ἔρως ἐσταύρωται, καὶ οὐκ ἔστιν ἐν ἐμοὶ πῦρ φιλοῦλον· ὑδωρ δὲ ζῶν, κ. τ. λ. “There is in me no fire delighting in matter, &c.” Simeon Metaphrastes has also φιλοῦλον. The old Latin Version, which is usually a strictly verbal translation, has “et non est in me ignis amans aliquam aquam ; sed vivens et loquens est in me &c.” The interpolated Epistle has the same reading as the old Latin Version οὐκ ἔστιν ἐν ἐμοὶ πῦρ φιλοῦντι. The sense of the passage being to this effect: “While I contemplate Jesus, whose love dwells in me, crucified for me, the fire, which the vain desires of the world kindle, is extinguished within me. I perceive my whole heart bedewed with the effusion of the Holy Spirit, as by a copious and perpetual stream of living water, springing up unto everlasting life. And thence I hear as it were a heavenly voice, calling unto me, and saying, Come unto the Father.”

Origen, in the introduction to his commentary on the book of Canticles, the book De Divinis nominibus, ascribed to Dionysius the Areopagite, cap. 4; the Menologia Græca, on the 20th of December, and many modern writers agree in considering the terms “my love is crucified,” as expressing the love of Ignatius to his Saviour who was crucified for him. This seems the most natural meaning of the expression.

Cave, in his life of Ignatius, ch. xi., follows the opinion of those who refer the words to the disposition of Ignatius himself, who had “crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.”

^q Joh. iv. 14.

nor in the pleasures of this life ; I desire the bread of God ; the heavenly bread, the bread of life, which is the flesh of Jesus Christ the Son of God, who was born, in these last days, of the seed of David and Abraham : and the drink of God which I desire is his blood, which is incorruptible love, and eternal life.

8. I have no desire to live any longer after the manner of men ; neither shall I, if ye consent. Consent therefore, that (God) may also consent unto you. I exhort you in few words ; believe me. And Jesus Christ will shew you that I speak truth, he who is the mouth of the Father, without deceit, in whom the Father speaks truly. Pray for me, that I may attain. I have not written unto you after the flesh, but according to the will of God. If I shall suffer, ye have consented to my wishes ; if I shall be rejected, ye have hated me.

9. Remember in your prayers the Church of Syria, which now enjoys God for its shepherd, instead of me. Jesus Christ alone shall supply the place of its Bishop, together with your love. But I am ashamed even to be reckoned as one of them. For neither am I worthy, being the least among them, and as one born out of due time.¹ But through mercy I have obtained to be somebody, if I shall attain unto God. My spirit salutes you : and the charity of the churches which have re-

¹ 1 Cor. xv. 8. Compare Epist. to the Smyrneans, c. 11.

ceived me in the name of Jesus Christ, not simply as a passenger. For even those which belonged not at all to me, have brought me on my journey from city to city, in my way according to the flesh.

10. These things I write to you from Smyrna, by the most worthy of the Church of Ephesus. There is now with me, together with many others, Crocus, most beloved of me. I doubt not that ye have known of those who are gone before me out of Syria to Rome, to the glory of God: to whom signify also that I am near at hand: for they are all worthy both of God and of you, whom it is fit that ye refresh in all things.

This have I written to you, on the twenty-fourth day of August. Be strong unto the end, in the patience of Jesus Christ.

THE
EPISTLE OF IGNATIUS
TO THE
PHILADELPHIANS.

IGNATIUS, who is also called Theophorus, to the Church of God the Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, which is at Philadelphia in Asia, which hath obtained mercy, and is fixed in the unity of God, and rejoices evermore in the passion of our Lord, and is fulfilled in all mercy through his resurrection; which also I salute in the blood of Jesus Christ, which is our eternal and abiding joy, especially if they be at unity with the Bishop and the Presbyters and Deacons with him, appointed according to the will of Jesus Christ, whom he hath settled according to his own will, in all firmness by the Holy Spirit.

1. WHICH Bishop I know obtained that ministry which appertains to the public good, neither of himself, nor by men, nor through vain glory, but in the love of God the Father and our Lord

Jesus Christ ; whose moderation I admire ; who by his silence prevails more than the vain speech of others. For (his mind) is aptly fitted to the commandments, as an harp to its strings.^a Wherefore my soul esteems his mind towards God most happy, knowing it to be fruitful in all virtue, and perfect, full of constancy, free from passion, and according to all the moderation of the living God.

2. Wherefore, as becomes children of light and of truth, flee divisions and false doctrines : for where the shepherd is, there do ye, as sheep, follow after. For many wolves,^b which appear worthy of belief, do through the allurements of evil pleasure lead captive those that run in the course of God. But in your concord they shall find no place.

3. Abstain from those evil herbs,^c which Jesus Christ cultivates not, since they are not planted by the Father. Not that I have found any division among you, but purity from all defilement.^d For as many as are of God, and of Jesus Christ, are also with their Bishop. And as many as shall with repentance return into the unity of the Church, even these shall also be the

^a See Ignatius's Epistle to the Ephesians, ch. 4.

^b Acts xx. 29.

^c Compare the Epistle to the Trallians, c. 6.

^d ἀποδιλισμόν, the clearness which is produced by filtering or straining a liquid, so as to separate from it all extraneous substances.

servants of God, that they may live according to Jesus Christ. Be not deceived, my brethren : if any one follows him that makes a schism (in the Church), he shall not inherit the kingdom of God. If any one walks after any other opinion, he agrees not with the passion (of Christ).

4. Give diligence, therefore, to partake all of the same Eucharist. For there is but one flesh of our Lord Jesus Christ, and one cup, in the unity of his blood : one altar, as there is also one Bishop, together with the Presbytery, and the Deacons, my fellow-servants. That so, whatsoever ye do, ye may do it according to the will of God.

5. My brethren, I am greatly enlarged in my love towards you; and in my great joy I would establish you: yet not I, but Jesus Christ, in whom being bound I fear the more, as yet being imperfect.^c But your prayer to God shall make me perfect, that I may attain that portion, which by God's mercy, is allotted unto me: fleeing to the Gospel,^d as to the flesh of Christ, and to the Apostles, as unto the Presbytery of

^c Compare Ignatius's Epistle to the Ephesians, c. 3.

^d Having recourse to the Gospel, as if it were to Jesus Christ himself, and to the writings of the Apostles, who are the council of the Church. Le Clerc well observes that Ignatius here specifies, in the first place, the Scriptures of the New Testament, as his refuge: and, in the second place, those of the Old Testament, as confirmatory of the New.

He ascribes also the salvation of the prophets to their faith.

the Church. Let us also love the prophets, forasmuch as they also proclaimed the coming of the Gospel, and hoped in Christ, and waited for him: in whom believing also they were saved, in the unity of Jesus Christ, being holy men worthy of all love and admiration, who have received testimony from Jesus Christ, and are numbered in the Gospel of our common hope.

6. But if any one shall teach you the Jewish law, hear him not. For better is it to receive the law of Christ from one that is circumcised, than the law of the Jews from one that is uncircumcised.^a But if either the one or the other do not speak concerning Christ Jesus, they seem to me but as monuments and sepulchres of the dead, upon which are written only the names of men. Flee, therefore, the wicked arts and snares of the prince of this world, lest at any time being oppressed by his craftiness ye grow weak in charity. But come all together into the same place with an undivided heart. And I bless my God that I have a good conscience towards you, and that no one among you hath to boast, either openly or privately, that I have been burdensome to any either in much or little.^b And I pray that this be not for a testimony to all among whom I have conversed.

^a See note on Ignatius's Epistle to the Magnesians, c. 8.

^b 2 Cor. xi. 9.

7. For although some would have deceived me according to the flesh, yet the Spirit is not deceived, being from God. For it knows both whence it comes, and whither it goes,ⁱ and reproves the secrets (of the heart).^k I cried, whilst I was among you, I spake with a loud voice, Give ear to the Bishop, and to the Presbytery, and to the Deacons. And some suppose that I spake this, as knowing before the separation of some. But He is my witness, for whose sake I am in bonds, that I knew nothing from any man. But the Spirit spake, saying on this wise; do nothing without the Bishop: keep your bodies as the temples of God: love unity: flee divisions: be the followers of Christ, as he was of his Father.

8. I therefore performed my part, as a man anxious for unity. For where there is division and strife, God dwells not. But God forgives all that repent, if they return to the unity of God, and to the council of the Bishop. For I trust in the grace of Jesus Christ, that he will free you from every bond. Nevertheless, I exhort you that ye do nothing out of strife, but according to the instruction of Christ.^j Because I have heard some

ⁱ Joh. ii. 8.

^k Heb. iv. 12.

^j This seems to be a caution against the early heretics, such as the Cerinthians and Ebionites, who would not admit any doctrine of the Gospel, except such as could be proved by the writings of the Old Testament. Lardner, Credibility, Part II. c. 17, p. 323, agrees with Le Clerc, in supposing that a reference

say, Unless I find it in the ancient writings, I will not believe in the Gospel. And when I said to them, It is written, (in the Gospel) they answered me, It is found written before (in the Law). But to me the most ancient records are Jesus Christ; the most uncorrupted records, his cross, and death, and rising again, and faith in him, by which I desire, through your prayers, to be justified.

9. The priests themselves are good. But much better is the High-priest, to whom only hath been committed the Holy of Holies, to whom alone have been entrusted the secret things of God. He is the door of the Father, by which enter in Abraham and Isaac, and Jacob, and the Prophets, and the Apostles, and the Church. All these things are for the unity of God. Howbeit the Gospel hath somewhat in it far above, the appearance of our Lord Jesus Christ, his passion, and resurrection. For the beloved prophets referred to him; but the Gospel is the perfection of incorruption. All, therefore, together are good, if ye believe with charity.

10. Forasmuch as I am told, that, through your prayers and the bowels which ye have in

ence is here made to those who appealed, on all controverted points, to the original autographs of the Gospels. The whole tenour of the passage, however, from Sect. 6. to Sect. 9. appears to relate to the Jewish law, compared with the Gospel.

Christ Jesus, the Church, which is in Antioch in Syria, is at peace,^m it will become you, as the Church of God, to appoint a Deacon to go to them thither as the ambassador of God, that he may rejoice with them when they meet together, and glorify the name of God. Blessed be that man in Christ Jesus, who shall be found worthy of such a ministry; and ye yourselves also shall be glorified. If, now, ye be willing, it is not impossible for you (to do this) for the sake of God, as also the other neighbouring Churches have sent them, some Bishops, and other Priests and Deacons.

11. As concerning Philo the Deacon of Cilicia, a man of honest report,ⁿ who now also ministers unto me in the word of God, with Rheus Agathopus,^o a chosen man, who is also following me from Syria, not regarding his life, these also bear witness of you. And I myself give thanks to God for you, that ye have received them, even as the Lord hath received us. And for those who dishonoured them, may they be forgiven through the grace of Jesus Christ. The love of the brethren that are at Troas salutes you; whence also I now

^m Compare Ignatius's Epist. to the Smyrneans, c. 11. and to Polycarp, c. 7. Archbishop Usher is of opinion that this peace to the Church of Antioch arose from the Edict of Trajan, that the Christians should no longer be sought out for punishment.

ⁿ Acts vi. 3.

^o See Epist. to the Smyrneans, c. 10.

write by Burrhus, who was sent together with me by those of Ephesus and Smyrna, for respect sake. May our Lord Jesus Christ honour them; in whom they hope, both in body, and soul, and spirit,^p in faith, and love, and unity. Fare ye well in Christ Jesus, our common hope.

^p 1 Thess. v. 23.

THE
EPISTLE OF IGNATIUS
TO THE
SMYRNEANS.

IGNATIUS, who is also called Thcophorus, to the Church of God the Father, and of the beloved Jesus Christ, which is at Smyrna, in Asia, (a Church, which is mercifully blessed with every good gift,^{*} being filled with faith and charity, so that it is wanting in no good gift, most godly, and fruitful in saints, all joy through the immaculate Spirit and the Word of God.

1. I GLORIFY God, even Jesus Christ, who hath given you such wisdom. For I have observed that you are settled in an immoveable faith, nailed, as it were, to the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ, both in the flesh, and in the spirit, and are confirmed in love through the blood of Christ, being fully persuaded of those things which relate unto our Lord, who was truly^b of the race of David

* 1 Cor. vii. 25.

^b These observations are directed against the Docetæ, who denied Christ had a real body. Compare c. 4. and Epist. to Trallians, c. 10.

according to the flesh, (but) the Son of God, according to the will and power of God, truly born of a virgin, and baptized by John, that so all righteousness might be fulfilled in him,^c truly crucified for us in the flesh under Pontius Pilate and Herod the Tetrarch. By the fruits of which, by his most blessed passion, we are: that he might set up a token^d for all ages through his resurrection, to all his holy and faithful servants, whether they be Jews or Gentiles, in one body of his Church.

2. Now all these things he suffered for us, that we might be saved. And he suffered truly, as he also truly raised up himself. And not, as some unbelievers say that he only seemed to suffer, they themselves seeming only to be (Christians).^e And as they believe so shall it happen unto them, when they are divested of the body, and shall become mere spirits.

3. For I know that even after the resurrection he was in the flesh, and believe that he is still so. And when he came to those who were with Peter, he said unto them, Take, handle me, and see that I am not an incorporeal demon.^f And straight-

^c Matt. iii. 15. ^d Isai. v. 26. ^e xl ix. 22. lxii. 10.

^f Compare Epist. to Trallians c. 10. Thus Tertullian, Adv. Valentinianos, c. 27. Ita omnia in imagines urgent, planè et ipsi imaginarii Christiani.

^g λάβετε, ψηλαφήσατέ με, καὶ ἰδετε, ὅτι οὐκ εἰμὶ δαιμόνος ἀσώματος.

These words are in all probability, a loose quotation from the

way they touched him and believed, being convinced both by his flesh and by his spirit. For this cause they despised death, and were found above it. But after the resurrection, he did eat and drink with them, although as to his spirit he was united to the Father.

the Gospel of St. Luke xxiv. 39. Ψηλαφίσατε με, καὶ ἰδετε· ὅτι πνέυμα σύρκα καὶ ὄστρα οὐκ ἔχει καθὼς ἐμὲ θεωρεῖτε ἔχοντα.

"Handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have." Ignatius evidently here uses the word demon to mean no more than spirit. It is so much the custom for the early Christian writers to quote the substance, and not the very words of Scripture; and Ignatius, when he wrote this Epistle, was so likely to quote from memory, that probably the allusion, in this case, would scarcely have been questioned, had not Eusebius (Eccles. Hist. iii. 36.) expressed his ignorance of the place whence the quotation was taken: and Jerome on two occasions (De Scriptoribus Ecclesiasticis, and, in his Commentary on Isaiah, lib. 18.) stated that Ignatius quotes the passage from the Gospel according to the Hebrews. In another place (Adversus Pelagianos, lib. 3.) Jerome describes this Gospel as being "written in the Chaldean or Syrian language, but in Hebrew characters;" and says that in his time, the early part of the fifth century, it was in use among the Nazarenes, and called the Gospel according to the Apostles, or more generally "the Gospel according to Matthew."

Origen, *περὶ ἀρχῶν*, lib. 1, says that in the book which is called "the Doctrine of Peter," the Saviour appears to say to his disciples, that he is not an incorporeal demon.

The testimony of Jerome leaves no doubt that these words were found in the "Gospel according to the Hebrews:" but it certainly does not appear that Ignatius quoted from that Gospel. Le Clerc, in his third Dissertation, at the end of his *Harmonia Evangelica*, and Lardner, *Credibility of the Gospel History*, Part II. c. 5. 55. are of opinion that Ignatius here merely alludes to St. Luke. Bp. Pearson, *Vindiciae Ignatianæ*, Part II. c. 9. p. 103, agrees with Isaac Casaubon in supposing that Ignatius refers to some verbal tradition, which might afterwards

4. Now of these things I remind you brethren, not questioning but that ye yourselves also believe that they are so. But I forewarn you to beware of certain beasts in the shape of men, whom ye must not only not receive, but, if possible, not even meet with. Only ye must pray for them,^s that if it be the will of God they may repent, which yet will be very hard. But of this Jesus Christ hath the power, who is our true life. For if all these things were done by our Lord in appearance only,^h then am I bound in appearance only. Wherefore then have I given myself over unto death, to fire, to sword, to wild beasts? But now, the nearer I am to the sword, the nearer to God; when I am among the wild beasts, I am with God. Only in the name of Jesus Christ, I undergo all, to suffer together with him; since he, who was made perfect man, strengthens me.

5. Whom some, not knowing, do deny: or

afterwards be inserted in the Gospel according to the Hebrews, ascribed to St. Matthew.

^s This is an early instance of distinct prayer for the conversion of heretics; as in Irenæus iii. 46. “*Nos autem precamur non perseverare illos in foveâ quam ipsi foderunt, sed segregari—et legitimè eos generari, conversus ad ecclesiam Dei. Hæc precamur de illis, utilius eos diligentes quam ipsi semet ipsos putant diligere.*”

Our own Church, in the third Collect for Good Friday, expressly follows the example thus set, and continued in the Christian Church. See Palmer's Antiquities of the English Liturgy, ch. 14. vol. i. p. 333.

^h Compare Trallians, c. 10.

rather have been denied by him, being the advocates of death, rather than of the truth. Neither the prophets, nor the law of Moses, nor even the Gospel itself, even to this day, nor the sufferings of every one of us, have persuaded these men. For they think also the same things of us. For what doth any one profit me, if he shall praise me, and blaspheme my Lord, confessing not that he was truly made flesh? Now he that doth not say this, doth in effect deny him, and is in death.¹ But for the names of such persons, thus being unbelievers, I thought it not fitting to write them unto you. Yea, God forbid that I should make any mention of them, till they shall repent to a true belief of Christ's passion, which is our resurrection.²

6. Let no man deceive himself. Both the things which are in heaven, and the glory of angels, and princes whether visible or invisible,

¹ There is here a correspondence in terms, which cannot be expressed in a translation. He who doth not confess that Jesus Christ truly bore our flesh (*σαρκοφόρος*) is himself (*νεκροφόρος*) a bearer of the dead, one who carries about his own body, "dead while he liveth." Cyprian expresses the same sentiment in his treatise De Lapsis (p. 135. Fell.). "Animam tuam misera perdidisti: spiritualiter mortua supervivere hic tibi, et ipsa ambulans funus tuum portare cœpisti; et non acriter plangis, non jugiter ingemiscis?" And Jerome, Ep. xiii. "Quanti hodie diu vivendo portant funera sua."

² Until they shall renounce their heretical opinions respecting his passion, which they hold to have been merely imaginary, and acknowledge that his sufferings were real, by virtue of which alone we look for our own resurrection.

unless they believe in the blood of Christ, even they shall receive condemnation.¹ He that is able to receive this, let him receive it.^m Let no man's place puff him up. For that which is worth all is faith and charity, to which nothing is to be preferred. But consider those who are of a different opinion with respect to the grace of Jesus Christ which is come unto us, how contrary they are to the design of God. They have no regard to charity, (no care) of the widow, the fatherless, and the oppressed, of the bound or free, of the hungry or thirsty.

7. They abstain from the Eucharist and from prayer, because they confess not the Eucharist to be the flesh of our Saviour Jesus Christ, which suffered for our sins, and which the Father, of his goodness, raised up (again from the dead). They therefore who contradict the gift of God, die in their disputes. But better would it be for them to receive it,ⁿ that they might rise also from the

¹ Ignatius is not the only early Christian writer, who held that the death of Christ was influential in the salvation of orders of beings superior to man. Jerome, in his Commentary on the Epistle to the Ephesians, lib. ii. says, "Descendit ergo in inferiora terræ, et ascendit super omnes cœlos Filius Dei, ut non tantum leges prophetasque compleret, sed et alias quasdam occultas dispensationes, quod solus ille novit cum Patre. Neque enim scire possumus, quo modo et angelis, et his qui in inferno erant, sanguis Christi profuerit: et tamen quin profuerit nescire non possumus.

^m Matt. xix. 12.

ⁿ αγαπᾶν. This is the sense which Abp. Wake gives to the

dead. It will become you, therefore, to abstain from such persons, and not to speak with them either in private or in public: but to hearken to the prophets, and especially to the Gospel, in which Christ's passion is manifested unto us, and his resurrection perfectly declared. But flee all divisions, as the beginning of evils.

8. See that ye all follow your Bishop, as Jesus Christ the Father: and the Presbytery, as the Apostles: and reverence the Deacons as the command of God. Let no one do any thing which belongs to the Church, separately from the Bishop. Let that Eucharist be looked upon as well established, which is either offered by the Bishop, or by one to whom the Bishop hath given his consent. Wheresoever the Bishop shall appear, there let the people also be: as, where Jesus Christ is, there is the Catholic^o Church. It is not lawful, without

the word. It may perhaps mean, to acquiesce, and no longer contradict the gift of God. Bp. Pearson considers it to refer to the Agapæ, or common feasts of the rich and the poor, which were held at the time of the celebration of the Eucharist. See below, ch. 8. This feast, in the early ages of the Church, seems to have preceded the Communion, (1 Cor. xi. 20, 21.) but at a later period, it was deferred till after the administration of the Holy Sacrament. In the council of Carthage, A.D. 252, it was decreed that the Eucharist should be received fasting, except at Easter. See Bingham, Eccles. Ant. Book xv. ch. vii. 7. Cave, Primitive Christianity, Part i. ch. 11. Suicer's Thesaurus on the word 'Αγάπην. Tertullian, Apol. c. 39.

^o This is the earliest instance of the use of the word Catholic, which was so soon adopted to distinguish the faith of the Christian church diffused throughout the whole world from that

the Bishop, either to baptize, or to celebrate the Holy Communion.^p But whatsoever he shall approve of, that is also pleasing unto God, that so whatsoever is done may be surely and well done.

9. For what remains, it is reasonable that we should repent, and, while there is yet time, return unto God. It is good to have due regard both to God and to the Bishop. He that honours the Bishop, shall be honoured of God. But he that doeth any thing without his knowledge, ministers unto the Devil. Let all things therefore abound to you in charity, seeing ye are worthy. Ye have refreshed me in all things; so shall Jesus Christ you. Ye have loved me absent and present. May God repay you, for whom whilst ye undergo all things, ye shall attain unto him.

10. Ye have done well, in that ye have received Philo, and Rheus Agathopus,^q who followed me for the word of God, as the Deacons of Christ our God: who also give thanks unto the Lord for that of other sects, which wished to shelter themselves under the name of Christians. Pacian in his Epistle to Sempronian the Novatian heretic, in the fourth century, well describes the reason of this appellation. "Christian is my name, and Catholic my sirname: the first is my denomination, the second my distinction." (*Christianus mihi nomen est, Catholicus cognomen. Illud me nuncupat, istud ostendit.*) The word Catholic occurs in the introduction to the account of the Martyrdom of Polycarp. See Bingham, *Eccles. Ant.* Book 1. ch. 1, 7.

^p αἰώνιον ποιεῖν. See note (n) c. 7.

^q Compare Philadelph. c. 11.

you, forasmuch as ye have refreshed them in all things. Nothing (that ye have done) shall be lost to you. May my soul be for yours, and my bonds, which ye have not despised, nor been ashamed of. Neither shall Jesus Christ, (our) perfect faith, be ashamed of you.

11. Your prayer is come to the Church of Antioch which is in Syria. Whence being sent bound with chains, which are the fittest ornament[¶] of a servant of God, I salute all (the Churches), not as though I were worthy to take my name from that Church, being the least of them.[¶] Nevertheless by the will of God I have been thought worthy (of this honour); not that I am at all conscious of deserving it, but by the grace of God, which I wish may be given unto me in perfection, that by your prayers I may attain unto God. In order, therefore, that your work may be fully accomplished, both upon earth and in heaven, it is fitting, that, for the honour of God, your Church should appoint some worthy delegate, who being come as far as Syria may rejoice with them, in that they are at peace,[¶] and that they are again restored to their former greatness, and have again received their proper body. It hath appeared therefore to

[¶] Θεοπρεπεστάτως δεσμοῖς. Compare Epist. of Polycarp, c. 1. Ignatius, Epist. to the Ephes. c. 11.

[¶] Compare Ignatius's Epistles to Rom. 9. Trallians 13.

[¶] See the Epistle to the Philadelphians, c. 10. Epistle to Polycarp, c. 7.

me a proper measure, that ye send some one from you, with an epistle, to congratulate them upon the calm which hath been given them of God, and that through your prayers they have already attained to an harbour. Being perfect, mind also that which is perfect. For when ye are desirous to do well, God is ready to enable you thereunto.

12. The love of the brethren that are at Troas salutes you. Whence also I write to you by Burrhus whom ye sent with me, together with the Ephesians your brethren ; and who hath in all things refreshed me. And would that all imitated him, as being a pattern of the ministry of God. May (his) grace fully reward him. I salute your very worthy Bishop, and your venerable Presbytery, and your Deacons, my fellow-servants ; and all of you in general, and every one in particular, in the name of Jesus Christ, and in his flesh and blood ; in his passion and resurrection both fleshly and spiritually, in the unity of God with you. Grace be with you, and mercy, and peace, and patience, for evermore.

13. I salute the families of my brethren with their wives, and children, and the virgins that are called widows.^u Be strong in the power of the

^u These were the Deaconesses, whose office was very ancient in the Christian Church. St. Paul speaks of Phœbe "a servant ($\delta\acute{a}kōvōe$) of the Church which is at Cenchrea." Rom. xvi. 1. And Pliny evidently alludes to them, in his celebrated Epistle : (Lib. x. Ep. 97.) "Quo magis necessarium credidi,

Holy Ghost. Philo, who is present with me, salutes you. I salute the house of Tavia, and pray that she may be strengthened in faith and charity, both of flesh and spirit. I salute Alce, my well-beloved; and the incomparable Daphnus, and Eutechnus, and all (others) by name. Farewell in the grace of God.

ex duabus ancillis, quæ ministræ dicebantur, quid esset veri et per tormenta quererere." They are frequently styled widows; (Tertull. Lib. i. ad Uxorem, c. 7.) and usually were so. The qualifications generally required for a Deaconess were, that she should be a widow, who had borne children, had been the wife of but one husband, and of mature age, from forty to sixty years old. Tertullian (De Velandis Virgin. c. 9) inveighs in strong terms against the abuse of introducing a virgin, under the age of twenty years, into the order of the Deaconesses. "Planè scio alicubi virginem *in viduatu* ab annis nondum viginti collocatam. Cui si quid refrigerii debuerat Episcopus, aliter utique salvo respectu disciplinæ praestare potuisset, ne tale nunc miraculum, ne dixerim monstrum, in Ecclesiâ denotaretur."

It appears, however, from this passage of Ignatius, and from other authorities, that virgins were admitted into this order. Thus Epiphanius (Exposit. Fid. n. 21.) says the Deaconesses must be either virgins, or widows who had been but once married: ἡ χηρεύσασαι ἀπὸ μονογαμίας, ἡ δὲ πάρθενοι οὐσαι. The same rule is laid down in the Apostolical Constitutions, Lib. vi. c. 17, the *preference* being there given to a virgin. See Bingham, Eccles. Ant. B. ii. c. 22. 1, 2. where several instances of virgin Deaconesses are mentioned: and Valesius, on Eusebius, de Laudibus Constantini, c. 17.

THE
EPISTLE OF IGNATIUS
TO
POLYCARP.

IGNATIUS, who is also called Theophorus, to Polycarp, Bishop of the Church which is at Smyrna; (their overseer), but rather himself overseen by God the Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ; all happiness.

1. HAVING known that thy mind towards God is fixed as it were upon an immoveable rock, I exceedingly give thanks, that I have been thought worthy to behold thy blessed face, in which may I always rejoice in God. I beseech thee, by the grace of God, with which thou art clothed, to press forward in thy course, and to exhort all (others) that they may be saved. Maintain thy station with all diligence both of flesh and spirit.* Be careful (to preserve) unity, than which nothing is better. Bear with all men; even as the Lord with

* 1 Cor. vii. 34.

thee. Support all in love, as also thou dost. Find time to pray without ceasing. Ask more understanding than what thou already hast. Be watchful, having thy spirit always awake. Speak to every one, according as God shall enable thee. Bear the infirmities of all,^b as a perfect combatant: where there is the greater labour, there is the greater gain.

2. If thou shalt love the good disciples, what thank is it? But rather do thou subject to thyself in meekness those that are mischievous. Every wound is not healed with the same remedy. Molify severe attacks with lenient fomentations. Be in all things wise as a serpent, and harmless as a dove.^c For this cause thou art composed of flesh and spirit, that thou mayest treat mildly those things which appear before thy face. And, as for those that are not seen, pray to God that he would reveal them unto thee, that so thou mayest be wanting in nothing, but abound in every gift. The times demand thee, as (pilots) require the winds, and as he that is tossed in a tempest (desires) the haven; that thou mayest attain unto God. Be sober, as the combatant of God. The crown (proposed to thee) is immortality, and eternal life, concerning which thou art also fully persuaded. In all things I, and my bonds which thou hast loved, will be thy surety.

^b Comp. Isai. liii. 4. Matt. viii. 17.

^c Matt. x. 16.

3. Let not those which appear worthy of credit, but teach other doctrines, disturb thee. Stand firm and immoveable as an anvil when it is beaten upon. It is the part of a brave combatant, to be wounded, and yet to overcome. But especially we ought to endure all things for God's sake, that he may bear with us. Become daily more diligent even than thou art. Consider the times, and expect Him, who is above all time, eternal, invisible, though for our sakes made visible: who cannot be perceived by our touch, neither is liable to suffering, although for our sakes he submitted to suffer, and endured evils of every kind for us.

4. Let not the widows be neglected. Be thou, after God, their guardian. Let nothing be done without thy knowledge and consent; neither do thou any thing but according to the will of God; as also thou dost with all constancy. Let your assemblies be more full:⁴ enquire into all by name. Overlook not the men-servants and maid-servants. Neither let them be puffed up, but rather let them be the more subject, to the glory of God, that they may obtain from him a better liberty. Let them not desire to be set free at the public cost, that they may not be slaves to their own lusts.

5. Flee evil arts: or rather, make not any mention of them.⁵ Say to my sisters, that they

⁴ Compare Ignatius's Epistle to the Ephesians, c. 13.

⁵ The Greek text, μᾶλλον δὲ περὶ τούτων ὅμιλιαν ποιοῦ.

" Rather

love the Lord, and be satisfied with their husbands both in the flesh and spirit. In like manner exhort my brethren, in the name of Jesus Christ, to love their wives, even as the Lord the Church.^f If any one is able to remain in chastity, to the honour of Him, who is the Lord of (all) flesh,^g let him remain so without boasting. If he boast, he is undone. And if he desire to be more esteemed than the Bishop, he is corrupted. It becomes also those who marry and are given in marriage to be united with the consent of the Bishop, that so the marriage may be according to godliness, and not in lust. Let all things be done to the honour of God.

6. Hearken ye (all)^h unto the Bishop, that God also may hearken to you. My soul be security for those who submit to their Bishop, Presbyters, and Deacons. And may my portion be together with theirs in God. Labour ye one with another: strive together; run together; suffer together: together take rest, and together rise, as the stewards, and assessors, and ministers of God. Please him,

“Rather make frequent discourses respecting them.” The old Latin version has the same sense. It seems probable, however, that the reading, $\mu\eta\pi\omega\omega\omega$, which is preserved in the Interpolated Epistle, is correct.

^f Ephes. v. 25.

^g Comp. Jer. xxxii. 27.

^h Although this Epistle was written to Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, precepts are included in it addressed to the whole Church; as St. Paul, in his first Epistle to Timothy, introduces many instructions to Christians in general.

under whom ye war, and from whom also ye receive your wages. Let none of you be found a deserter. Let your baptism remain, as arms, faith as an helmet, charity as a spear; patience as your whole armour. Let your works be that which is committed to your charge,¹ that so ye may receive a suitable reward. Be long-suffering, therefore, towards each other in meekness, as God is towards you. Let me have joy of you in all things.

7. Now, forasmuch as the Church of Antioch in Syria, is, as I have learned, at peace through your prayers,² I also have been the more comforted and without care in God, if so be that by suffering I shall attain unto God, that through your prayers I may be found a disciple (of Christ). It will be fit, most worthy Polycarp, to call a council of the most godly men, and choose some one whom ye particularly love, and who is patient of labour, that he may be the messenger of God, and to appoint him to go into Syria, and glorify your unwearied love, to the praise of Christ. A Christian is not in his own power, but must be always at leisure for (the service of) God. And this is the work both of God, and of you, when ye shall have perfected it. For I trust, through the

¹ τὰ δεπόσιτα νῦν, τὰ ἔργα νῦν. See that ye employ all the talents, committed to you as a sacred deposit, for which ye will be called upon to give an account.

² Trajan having put a stop to the persecution at Antioch. Compare the Epistle to the Philadelphians, c. 10.

grace (of God) that ye are ready to every good work, that is fitting for you in the Lord. Knowing therefore your earnest affection for the truth, I have exhorted you by these short letters.¹

8. But forasmuch as I have not been able to write to all the Churches, because I must suddenly sail from Troas to Neapolis, for so is the will of those to whom I am subject, write to the Churches which are near thee, inasmuch as thou art instructed in the will of God, that they also may do in like manner. Let those who are able send messengers; and the rest send (their) letters by those who shall be sent by you: that thou mayest be glorified to all eternity, even as thou art worthy.

I salute all by name: and (particularly) the wife of Epitropus, with all her house and children. I salute Attalus my well-beloved. I salute him who shall be thought worthy to be sent by you into Syria. Grace be ever with him, and with Polycarp who sends him. I wish you all happiness in our God, Jesus Christ, in whom continue in the unity and protection of God. I salute Alce my well-beloved. Farewell in the Lord.

¹ The Epistle to the Smyrneans and this to himself.

THE
MARTYRDOM
OF
IGNATIUS.

A RELATION OF THE MARTYRDOM OF IGNATIUS.

SOON after Trajan had succeeded to the Roman empire, Ignatius, the disciple of the Apostle John, a man in all things like unto the Apostles, governed the Church of Antioch with all care. He had with difficulty escaped the former storms of the numerous persecutions, which happened under Domitian, like a skilful pilot, by the helm of prayer and fasting, by the constancy of his doctrine and spiritual labour, withstanding the raging floods, fearing lest he should lose any of those who wanted courage, or were not well grounded in the faith. Wherefore, when the persecution was for the present somewhat abated, he rejoiced greatly at the tranquillity of the Church. Howbeit for himself he was troubled, that he had not yet attained to the true love of Christ, nor to the perfect rank of a disciple. For he thought that the confession, which is made by martyrdom, would bring him

to a yet more close and intimate union with the Lord. Wherefore, having continued a few years longer with the Church, illuminating, like a divine lamp, the heart of every man by the exposition of the Holy Scriptures, he attained the object of his wishes.

2. For, after this, in the ninth^a year of his empire, Trajan elated with his victory over the Scythians and Dacians, and many other nations, conceived that the religious company of Christians was yet wanting to complete his universal dominion. He therefore threatened them with persecution, unless they chose to submit to the worship of devils, with all other nations; so that terror compelled all men of godly lives either to sacrifice or to die. Then, therefore, this noble soldier of Christ, apprehensive for the Church of Antioch, was voluntarily brought before Trajan, who was at that time passing through the city, as he was hastening against Armenia, and the Parthians. As soon then as he stood in the presence of the Emperor Trajan, the Emperor said, “Who art thou, unhappy and deluded man,^b who art so active in trans-

^a The Greek has ἐννάτῳ ἔτει; the old Latin version, “post quartum annum.” Bp. Pearson, in his dissertation on the year in which Ignatius was condemned at Antioch by Trajan, shews that there is some error in this date. He places the event as late as the eighteenth year of Trajan, A.D. 116.

^b τίς εἰ, κακοδαιμόν. The word κακοδαιμόν signifies both a person who is unhappy, or ill-fated, and one who is under the influence of evil spirits. Trajan uses the word in the first sense.

gressing our commands, and besides persuadest others to their own destruction?" Ignatius replied, "No one ought to call (one who is properly styled) Theophorus,^c unhappy and deluded; for the evil spirits (which delude men) are departed far from the servants of God. But if you so call me, because I am a trouble to those evil spirits, and an enemy to their delusions, I confess the justice of the appellation. For having (within me) Christ the heavenly King, I loosen all their snares." Trajan replied, "And who is Theophorus?" Ignatius answered, "He that hath Christ in his heart." Then said Trajan, "Thinkest thou, therefore, that we have not the gods within us, who also assist us in our battles against our enemies?" "Thou dost err," Ignatius replied, "in calling the evil-spirits of the heathen, gods. For there is but one God, who made the heaven and the earth, the sea and all that are in them: and one Christ Jesus the only-begotten Son of God, whose kingdom may I enjoy." Trajan said, "Speakest thou of him who was crucified under Pontius Pilate?" Ignatius answered, "(I speak of) him who hath crucified my sin, with the inventor of it; and hath put all the deceit and malice of the devil under the feet of those who carry him in sense. Ignatius replies by a reference to the second. See Pearson, *Vindiciae Ignat.* Part II. c. 12.

^c See note on the introduction to Ignatius's Epistle to the Ephesians.

their hearts." Then asked Trajan, "Carriest thou, then, within thee him who was crucified?" "Yea," replied Ignatius, "for it is written, I will dwell in them, and walk in them."^d Then Trajan pronounced this sentence: "We decree that Ignatius, who hath confessed that he carries about within himself him that was crucified, shall be carried in bonds by soldiers to the great Rome, there to be thrown to the beasts for the gratification of the people." When the holy martyr heard this sentence, he cried out with joy, "I thank thee, O Lord, that thou hast vouchsafed thus to punish me, out of thy perfect love towards me, and hast made me to be put in iron bonds, with thine apostle Paul." Having thus spoken, he joyfully suffered his bonds to be put about him; and having first prayed for the Church, and commended it with tears unto the Lord, like a choice ram, the leader of a goodly flock, he was hurried away by the brutal and cruel soldiers, to be carried to Rome and there to be devoured by blood-thirsty wild beasts.

3. Wherfore with much readiness and joy, out of his desire to suffer, he left Antioch, and came to Seleucia, whence he set sail. After (a voyage of) much labour he reached the city of Smyrna, and with great gladness left the ship, and hastened to see the holy Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, who had been his fellow disciple; for

^d 2 Cor. vi. 16.

both of them had been instructed by St. John the Apostle. Being hospitably received by him, and communicating to him spiritual gifts,* and glorying in his bonds, he entreated first of all the whole Church, (for the cities and Churches of Asia attended this holy man by their Bishops, and Priests, and Deacons, all hastening to him, if by any means they might receive some part of his spiritual gift) but more particularly Polycarp, to contend (with God) in his behalf: that being suddenly taken by the beasts from the world, he might appear before the face of Christ.

4. Thus, then, he spake, and thus he testified; extending so much his love for Christ, as one who was about to receive heaven, through his own good confession, and the earnest contention of those who prayed together with him: and to return a recompence to the Churches, who came to meet him by their governors, he sent letters of thanks to them which distilled spiritual grace,

* It is highly probable that, at this time, certain preternatural powers subsisted in the Church, especially in those who had been ordained to any holy office by the imposition of the hands of the Apostles themselves. Although Ignatius expresses in his Epistles the greatest humility, and the fullest sense of his inferiority to the Apostles, (Ephes. c. 3. Magnes. c. 11. Rom. c. 4.) he yet plainly implies that some revelations were made to him, (Ephes. c. 20.) and that he professed some knowledge of spiritual things which he was not then at liberty to communicate to those who were less advanced in Christian knowledge. (Trall. c. 4, 5.) The writer of this account probably refers to some communications of this nature. See 1 Pet. iv. 10, 11.

with prayer and exhortation. Seeing therefore all men so kindly affected towards him, and fearing lest the love of the brotherhood should prevent his hastening to the Lord, now that a fair door of martyrdom was opened to him, he wrote to the Church of the Romans the Epistle following.¹

5. Having then by this Epistle prepared, according to his wishes, such of the brethren at Rome as were against his martyrdom, he set sail from Smyrna and came to Troas. For this faithful follower of Christ was pressed by the soldiers to arrive at the great city of Rome before the public spectacle, that he might be delivered to the wild beasts in sight of the Roman people, and so receive the crown for which he strove. From Troas, then, he proceeded and landed at Neapolis, and went (on foot) by Philippi through Macedonia, and that part of Epirus which is next to Epidamnus; and having found a ship in one of the sea-ports, he sailed over the Adriatic sea, and passing out of that into the Tyrrhene sea, and sailing by many islands and cities, at length he came in sight of Puteoli. As soon as this holy man saw the place, he was very anxious to disembark, wishing to tread in the footsteps of the Apostle Paul. But a violent wind arising and driving back the ship, suffered him not

¹ Here was inserted the Epistle of Ignatius to the Romans.

to do so. Wherefore, commanding the love of the brethren in that place, he sailed forward. For one whole day and night, then, we^s were hurried on by a favourable wind. To us, this was a subject of sorrow, inasmuch as we were grieved at our approaching separation from that holy man; but to him it was the accomplishment of his prayers, that he might the sooner depart out of this world, and attain unto the Lord whom he loved. Wherefore sailing into the Roman port, as that impure festival was approaching to an end, the soldiers began to be offended at our slowness, but the Bishop, with great joy, complied with their haste.

6. Being therefore hurried from the place which is called the Port, we forthwith met the brethren; for the report respecting the holy martyr was already spread abroad, who were full of fear and joy. For they rejoiced in that God had vouchsafed them the company of Theophorus, but were afraid when they considered that such an one was brought thither to die. Some of these who were the most zealous (for his safety), and promised

^s This abrupt and inartificial change from the third to the first person is a strong internal mark of genuineness. It is exactly similar to that in Acts xvi. 8, 10. "And *they* passing by Myaia, came down to Troas. And after he had seen the vision, *we* immediately endeavoured to go into Macedonia." The first incidental intimation that St. Luke there became the companion of St. Paul.

to calm the people, that they should not desire the destruction of the just, he commanded to hold their peace: for he presently knew this by the Spirit, and saluted them all, intreating them to shew true love towards him; expressing himself in discourse more fully even than he had in his epistle, and persuading them not to hinder him who was hastening to the Lord. And so, all the brethren kneeling down, he prayed to the Son of God for the Church, that he would cause the persecution to cease, and (continue) the love of the brethren towards each other. (This being done,) he was hurried away with all haste into the amphitheatre, and was immediately thrown in, according to the previous command of Cæsar, the end of the spectacles being at hand. For it was then a very solemn day, called in the Roman tongue the thirteenth (of the Calends of January), upon which the people were more than ordinarily wont to be gathered together. Thus was he delivered to the wild beasts, near the Temple, that so the desire of the holy martyr Ignatius might be accomplished, as it is written, the desire of the righteous is acceptable:^h namely, that he might be burdensome to none of the brethren, by the gathering of his remains, according as in his epistle he had before wished that so his end might be.ⁱ For only the more

^h Prov. x. 24.

ⁱ See Ignat. Epist. to Romans, 4.

solid parts of his holy remains were left, which were carried to Antioch, and wrapped in linen, as an inestimable treasure left to the holy Church, by the grace which was in the martyr.

7. Now these things were done the day before the thirteenth of the Calends of January, that is on the twentieth day of December, Sura and Senecius being the second time consuls of the Romans.* We ourselves were eye-witnesses of these events, with many tears; and as we watched all night in the house, and prayed God in many words, with bended knees and supplication, that he would give us weak men some assurance of what was before done, it happened that, having fallen into a slumber for a little while, some of us on a sudden saw the blessed Ignatius standing by us and embracing us: and others beheld him praying for us; others saw him as it were dropping with sweat, as if he came out of great labour, and standing by the Lord. Having seen these things then with great joy, and comparing the visions of our dreams, we sang praises to God the giver of all good things, and pronounced the saint blessed; and have now made known unto you both the day and the time: that, being assembled together at the season of his martyrdom, we may communicate with the combatant and noble martyr of Christ, who trod under foot the Devil,

* This corresponds to A.D. 107.

and perfected the course which he had piously desired, in Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom and with whom, all glory and power be to the Father with the Holy Spirit for ever. Amen.

THE
CIRCULAR EPISTLE OF THE CHURCH OF SMYRNA
CONCERNING
THE MARTYRDOM
OF
S T. P O L Y C A R P .
—

THE Church of God which is at Smyrna to the Church of God which is at Philadelphia, and to all the other assemblies of the holy and Catholic Church, in every place; mercy, peace, and love from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ be multiplied.

1. WE have written unto you, brethren, respecting the other martyrs, and (especially) the blessed Polycarp, who by his martyrdom has set, as it were, his seal, and put an end to the persecution. For almost all things that went before were

^a Eusebius, Eccles. Hist. iv. 15. has preserved the substance of this Epistle, from another copy, sent to the Church of Philomelium in Phrygia. He has transcribed the Epistle from c. 8. to the middle of c. 19, with some variations from the present Greek copy.

done, that the Lord might shew us from above a martyrdom truly such as became the Gospel. For he expected to be delivered up, even as the Lord also was, that we also should imitate his example ; considering not only our own interest but that of our neighbour. For true and perfect charity desires not only that a man's self should be saved, but also all his brethren.

2. The sufferings, then, of all the other martyrs which they underwent according to the will of God, were blessed and generous. For so it becomes us, who are more religious (than others) to ascribe the supreme power over all things unto Him. And who indeed would not admire the greatness of their mind, their patience and love of their Lord ; who when they were so torn with scourges, that the very structure of their bodies to the inward veins and arterics was seen, did yet endure it ; so that all who stood round pitied and lamented them ? Others again attained to such a degree of fortitude, that no one uttered a cry or a groan, plainly shewing to all of us, that those martyrs of Christ, in the same hour in which they were tormented, were absent from the body : or rather that the Lord stood by, and conversed with them. Wherefore being supported by the grace of God, they despised all the torments of the world, and by the sufferings of one hour redeemed themselves from everlasting punishment. Whence even the fire of their cruel mur-

derers seemed cold to them: for they had before their eyes the prospect of escaping that which is eternal and unquenchable: and beheld with the eyes of their heart those good things which are reserved for them that endure, which neither ear hath heard, nor eye seen, nor have they entered into the heart of man.^b But to them they were now revealed by the Lord, as being no longer men, but already become angels. In like manner they who were condemned to the wild beasts, (and kept) a long while (in prison,) underwent many grievous torments: being compelled to lie upon sharp spikes,^c and tormented with divers other punishments, that, if it were possible, the tyrant might force them, by the length of their sufferings, to deny Christ.

3. The devil did indeed invent many things against them: but, thanks be to God; for he prevailed not over all. For the brave Germanicus^d

^b 1 Cor. ii. 9.

^c κήρυκας—These spikes might be natural or artificial. Eusebius, (H. E. iv. 15.) who has given only a brief abstract of the early part of this Epistle, paraphrases the expression thus:—“being sometimes laid upon whelk-shells from the sea, and upon sharp spikes.” (*τοτὲ δὲ τοὺς ἀπὸ θαλάττης κήρυκας, καὶ τίταν ὁξεῖς ὄβελίσκους ὑποστρεψυμένους*) The shell of the κήρυξ or buccinum, was armed with rough spikes: (Plin. Hist. Nat. ix. 36.) and an iron instrument, formed with sharp spikes projecting in every direction, used by the Romans as a defence against the enemy’s horse, was called Murex, from its resemblance to the shell of the fish of that name.

^d The Latin Church celebrate the memory of Germanicus on the 19th of January.

strengthened those that feared, by his patience, and fought gloriously with wild beasts. For when the proconsul would have persuaded him, telling him, that he should consider his age, and spare himself, he forcibly drew the wild beast towards him,^c being desirous the more quickly to be delivered from a wicked and unjust world. Upon this, the whole multitude, wondering at the courage of the holy and pious race of Christians, cried out, Away with the wicked wretches:^f let Polycarp be sought out.

4. Then one named Quintus, a Phrygian, having lately come from his own country, when he saw the wild beasts, was afraid. Now this was the same man who forced himself and some others, to present themselves of their own accord (to the trial).

^c Compare Ignatius's Epistle to the Romans, c. 5.

^f ἀθέους—atheists. This was a constant term of reproach against the early Christians, arising from their opposing the worship of the heathen deities. Thus Dio, in his life of Domitian, speaks of the charge of Atheism being “very common against those who went over to the Jewish religion;” evidently alluding to Christianity; and of Acilius Glabrio being put to death on that account.

Athenagoras says that the Gentiles brought three principal accusations against the Christians,—Atheism, banqueting on the bodies of children, and incest. (*τρία ἐπιφημίζουσιν ήμῖν ἐγκλήματα, ἀθεότητα, Θυέστεια δεῖπνα, Οἰδιποτείους μίξεις*) (Athenag. Legatio pro Christianis, p. 4. C. Colon. 1686.) Justin Martyr, Apol. c. 5. and elsewhere refers to the same charge. From c. 9. of this Epistle it is plain that the phrase, “away with the Atheists,” was considered equivalent to “away with the Christians.”

Him therefore the proconsul induced, after much persuasion, to swear (by the emperor) and to sacrifice. For which cause, brethren, we do not commend those who offer themselves (to persecution); since the Gospel teaches no such thing.

5. Now the most admirable Polycarp, when he first heard (that he was called for,) was not disturbed in mind, but determined to remain in the city. But the greater part (of his friends) persuaded him to retire. Accordingly he went into a little village, not far distant from the city, and there remained, with a few others; doing nothing else, either by day or by night, but praying for all men, and for all the Churches throughout the world, according to his usual custom. And as he prayed, he saw a vision,^ε three days before he was taken; and, behold, the pillow under his head appeared to be on fire. Whereupon, turning to those who were with him, he said prophetically, “I must be burnt alive.”

6. And when those who sought for him drew near, he departed into another village; and immediately his pursuers came thither. And when they found him not, they seized upon two young men, one of whom being tormented, confessed. For it was impossible he should be concealed, forasmuch

^ε Eusebius describes this as a dream. For he says, “when he awoke from sleep, he immediately related what he had seen to those who stood by.” Εξυπνον δὲ ἐπὶ τούτῳ γενόμενον, εὐθὺς ὑφερμηνεύσας τοῖς παρόντας τὸ φανέν.

as they who betrayed him were his own domestics. So the keeper of the peace, who was also magistrate elect, Herod by name,^h hastened to bring him into the lists: that so Polycarp might receive his proper portion, being made partaker of Christ: and they that betrayed him might undergo the punishment of Judas.

7. The officers, therefore, and horsemen, taking the young lad along with them, departed about supper time, it being Friday, with their usual arms, as if they were in pursuit of a robber. And being come to the place where he was, about the close of the day they found him in a small house, lying in an upper chamber, whence he could easily have escaped into another place; but he would not, saying, “The will of the Lord be done.” Wherefore, when he heard that they were come to the house, he went down and spake to them. And as they that were present wondered at his age and constancy, some of them began to say, “Was there need of all this care to take such an old man

^h καὶ ὁ εἰρήναρχος, σύ καὶ κληρονόμος, τὸ αὐτῷ ὄνυμα Ἰλραῖς, ἐπιλεγόμενος. This is the manner, in which Smith proposes to read and point the passage. The Proconsul was at that period the chief magistrate of the Province of Asia. But every year the names of ten principal men were sent to him out of each city, one of whom was appointed by the Proconsul to be keeper of the peace for the following year. See Valesius on Euseb. Hist. Eccles. iv. 15. Aristides Orat. iv. Herod appears to have been elected also to some other permanent office, implied by the title κληρονόμος.

as this?" Immediately then he commanded to be set before them, the same hour, to eat and to drink, as much as they would: desiring them to give him one hour's liberty, that he might pray without disturbance. And when they had permitted him, he stood praying, being full of the grace of God, so that he ceased not for two whole hours, to the admiration of all that heard him; insomuch that many (of the soldiers) began to repent, that they were come out against so godly an old man.

8. As soon as he had finished his prayer, in which he made mention of all men who had ever been acquainted with him, whether small or great, honourable or obscure, and of the whole Catholic¹ Church, throughout the world; the time being come when he was to depart, they set him upon an ass, and led him into the city, it being the day of the great Sabbath.² And Herod, the keeper of the peace, with his father Nicetes, met him in a chariot. And having taken him up to them, and set him in the chariot, they began to persuade him, saying, "What harm is there in saying, Lord Cæsar, and in offering sacrifice, and so being safe?"

¹ See note (o) on Ep. of Ignatius to the Smyrneans, c. 8. p. 126.

² The week in which the Passion of our Saviour was celebrated was called the Great Week: and the Saturday of that week the Great Sabbath. This was the only Saturday which was observed as a fast, in the Eastern Church. Bingham, Eccles. Ant. xx. c. 3. 1. Other opinions on this point are stated by Valesius, in his notes on Eusebius, Eccles. Hist. iv. 15.

with other words which are usual on such occasions. But Polycarp at first answered them not: whereupon, as they continued to urge him, he said, “I shall not do as you advise.” They, therefore, failing to persuade him, spake bitter words against him, and then thrust him violently off the chariot, so that he hurt his thigh in the fall. But he, without turning back, went on with all diligence, as if he had received no harm at all: and so was brought to the lists, where there was so great a tumult, that no one could be heard.

9. Now as he was going into the lists, there was a voice from heaven, “Be strong, Polycarp, and quit thyself like a man.” No one saw who it was that spake to him: but those of our brethren who were present heard the voice. And as he was brought in, there was a great disturbance, when they heard that Polycarp was taken. And when he came near, the Proconsul¹ asked him, whether he were Polycarp. And, when he acknowledged (that he was,) he persuaded him to deny (the faith,) saying, “Reverence thy old age;” with many other exhortations of a like nature, as their custom is, saying, “Swear by the fortune of Cæsar; Repent, and say, Away with the wicked.”^m Then Polycarp,

¹ Statius Quadratus, who was consul, A.D. 142.

^m Atheists. See note on c. 5.

It appears from the celebrated letter of Pliny to Trajan, that one of the customary trials, to which those accused of Christianity were exposed, was to urge them to sacrifice to the gods.

looking with a severe countenance upon the whole company of ungodly Gentiles who were in the lists, stretched forth his hand to them, and said, groaning and looking up to heaven, “Away with the wicked.” But the Proconsul urging him, and saying, “Swear, and I will release thee: reproach Christ,” Polycarp answered, “Fourscore and six years have I continued serving him, and he hath never wronged me at all; how then can I blaspheme my King and my Saviour?”

gods, or to the statue of the Emperor, to swear by the genius or fortune of Cæsar, and to reproach Christ.

“*Propositus est libellus, sine auctore, multorum nomina continens, qui negarent se esse Christianos, aut fuisse, quum, præeunte me, deos appellarent, et imagini tue, quam propter hoc juseram cum simulachris numinum afferri, thure ac vino supplicant, præterea maledicerent Christo: quorum nihil cogi posse dicuntur, qui sunt revera Christiani.*” Plin. Ep. x. 97.

Tertullian’s *Apology*, c. 32. shews that the Christians in his time were exposed to the same trial, and gives the reasons why they would swear neither by the fortune nor by the genius of Cæsar.

Chrysostom finds one of his eloquent appeals to the consciences of his hearers upon this well known fact. “Wherefore let us bear witness to Christ: for we, as well as the martyrs of old, are called upon to bear testimony to him. They obtained that appellation, because, when they were called upon to abjure, they endured every torment, sooner than deny the truth. Let us then be unsubdued, when various passions invite us to abjure our faith. God commands you, ‘Say that Christ is not Christ.’ Hear it not then, as if it were the voice of God, but set at nought its counsel. Evil lusts pronounce the same command. But be not thou persuaded by them, but stand firmly, that it be not said of us, ‘They profess that they know God, but in works they deny him.’ (Tit. i. 16.) For this becomes not martyrs, but the reverse.” Chrysost. Hom. 47. on the *Acts of the Apostles*, Tom. iv. p. 872. Savil.

10. And when the Proconsul nevertheless still insisted, and said, "Swear by the genius of Cæsar," he answered, "If thou art so vainly confident as to expect that I should swear by what thou callest the genius of Cæsar, pretending to be ignorant of what I am, hear me freely professing unto thee, I am a Christian. And if thou further desirest to know what Christianity really is, appoint a day, and thou shalt hear it." The Proconsul replied, "Persuade the people." Then said Polycarp, "To thee have I freely offered to give even a reason of my faith; for we are taught to pay to the powers and authorities, which are ordained of God, the honour which is due, provided it be not injurious to ourselves. But for the people, I esteem them not worthy that I should give any account of my faith to them."

11. The Proconsul said unto him, "I have wild beasts ready; to those I will cast thee, unless thou repent." He answered, "Call for them, then: for we Christians are fixed in our minds, not to change from good to evil. But it will be good for me to be changed from my grievous (sufferings) to their just reward. The Proconsul added, "Seeing thou despisest the wild beasts, I will cause thee to be devoured with fire, unless thou shalt repent."ⁿ Polycarp answered, "Thou

ⁿ It will be observed that the punishment of being burnt alive is here considered more severe than that of being exposed to wild beasts.

threatenest me with fire, which burns for an hour, and in a little while is extinguished: for thou knowest not the fire of the future judgment, and of that eternal punishment, which is reserved for the ungodly. But why tarriest thou? Bring forth what thou wilt."

12. Having said this, and many other things, (of the like nature,) he was filled with confidence and joy, insomuch that his very countenance was full of grace, so that not only he was serene and undisturbed at what was spoken to him, but, on the contrary, the Proconsul was astonished, and sent his own herald to proclaim thrice, in the midst of the lists, "Polycarp hath confessed himself to be a Christian." When this was proclaimed by the herald, the whole multitude both of the Gentiles and of the Jews which dwelt at Smyrna, being full of fury, cried out with a loud voice, "This is the teacher of Asia,^o the father of the Christians, who hath overthrown our gods, and teaches so many not to sacrifice, nor to pay any worship to the gods." And so saying, they cried out and desired Philip the president of the spectacles,^p that he would let loose a lion against

^o The original words are, ὁ τῆς αἰσεβείας διδάσκαλος. But Eusebius, H. E. iv. 15. Rufinus, and the old Latin version agree in putting Ασίας for αἰσεβείας. Jerome, in his catalogue of Ecclesiastical writers, calls Polycarp, Totius Asiæ princeps.

^p Ασιάρχης. The Asiarch was chief priest of the whole province of Asia. He is called ἀρχιερεὺς in c. 21. Every year, about

Polycarp. But Philip replied, that it was not lawful for him to do so, since that kind of spectacle was already over. Then it pleased them to cry out with one consent, that Polycarp should be burnt alive. For so it was necessary that the vision should be fulfilled which was made manifest to him by his pillow, when he saw it on fire, as he prayed, and said prophetically to the faithful that were with him, I must be burnt alive.

13. This then was done with greater speed than it was spoken: the whole multitude instantly gathering together wood and faggots out of the work-shops and baths: the Jews especially, ac-

about the period of the Autumnal equinox, an assembly was held in the several cities, in which one person of that city was nominated to the office. The common council of all Asia afterwards elected about ten, out of those nominated by the several cities. It is doubtful whether all the ten filled the office during the year, or whether the Proconsul appointed one of the ten, as in the case of the Irenarch, or keeper of the peace. See note, h. c. 6.

Valesius (Euseb. Hist. Eccles. iv. 15.) is of opinion, from the conclusion of this Epistle, in which the martyrdom of Polycarp is said to have taken place "when Philip was chief priest," that one only was appointed. In Acts xix. 31. mention is made of "certain of the chiefs of Asia," (*Ἀσιαρχῶν*) whence Abp. Usher concludes there were more than one. But those who had once discharged the office might still be called by the name, as was sometimes the case with the Jewish High Priests.

The office was accompanied with great expence. For which reason Strabo says that the Asiarch was often chosen, as in this instance, c. 21. from the opulent citizens of Tralles. καὶ αἱ τινὲς ἐξ αὐτῶν (Τραλλιανῶν) εἰσιν οἱ πρωτεύοντες κατὰ τὴν ἐπαρχίαν οὐς Ασιάρχας καλοῦσι. Strabo, Lib. xiv.

cording to their custom, with all readiness assisting them in doing it. When the pile was ready, Polycarp laying aside all his upper garments, and loosing his girdle, endeavoured also to loosen his sandals, which aforetime he was not wont to do; forasmuch as always every one of the faithful, that was about him, contended who should soonest touch his flesh. For he was adorned by his good conversation with all kinds of piety, even before his martyrdom.⁴ Immediately then they put upon him the instruments⁵ which were prepared for the pile. But when they would also have nailed him to the stake, he said, "Leave me thus: for he who hath given me strength to endure the fire, will also enable me, without your securing me by nails, to remain without moving in the pile."

14. Wherefore they did not nail him, but bound him (to the stake). But he, having put his hands behind him, and being bound as a ram, (chosen) out of a great flock for an offering, and prepared to be a burnt sacrifice, acceptable unto God, looked up to heaven, and said, "O Lord God Almighty, the Father of thy well-beloved and blessed Son Jesus Christ, by whom we have received

⁴ Eusebius has, "For, even before he was grey-headed, ($\piρὸ τὴν πολιάτη$) he was adorned in all things by his good conversation."

⁵ ὅργα—*the pitched shirt, in which the victim was wrapped, the stake to which he was bound, the nails, and other implements, by which he was secured.*

the knowledge of thee; the God of angels and powers and of every creature, and (especially) of the whole race of just men, who live in thy presence; I give thee hearty thanks that thou hast vouchsafed to bring me to this day and to this hour; that I should have a part in the number of thy martyrs, in the cup of thy Christ, unto the resurrection of eternal life, both of soul and body, in the incorruption of the Holy Spirit: among which may I be accepted this day before thee, as a fat and acceptable sacrifice, as thou hast before ordained, and declared, and fulfilled, even thou the true God with whom is no falsehood at all. For this and for all things else, I praise thee, I bless thee, with the eternal and heavenly Jesus Christ, thy beloved Son, with whom to thee and the Holy Ghost be glory, both now and to all succeeding ages. Amen.^{*}

15. As soon as he had uttered Amen, and finished his prayer, the men appointed for the pur-

* The conclusion of this prayer is differently expressed in Eusebius: "For this, and for all things else, I praise thee, I bless thee, I glorify thee, through the eternal High Priest, Jesus Christ thy beloved Son, through whom, to Thee with Him, in the Holy Ghost, be glory both now and to all succeeding ages. Amen."

δι' οὐδὲ σὺν αὐτῷ ἐν πνεύματι ἀγίῳ ὁσίᾳ, κ. τ.λ.

The old Latin version agrees nearly with Eusebius. "Ob hanc rem te benedico in omnibus, et glorior, per æternum Pontificem omnipotentem Jesum Christum, per quem tibi, et cum ipso, et cum Spiritu Sancto, gloria nunc, et in futurum, et in sæcula sæculorum. Amen."

pose lighted the fire. And when the flame began to blaze to a very great height, a wonderful sight appeared to us, who were permitted to witness it, and were also spared, to relate to others what had happened. For the flame, making a kind of arch, like the sail of a ship filled with wind, encompassed the body of the martyr, which was in the midst, not as flesh which was burned, but as bread which is baked, or as gold or silver glowing in the furnace. Moreover we perceived as fragrant an odour, as if it came from frankincense, or some other precious spices.

16. At length, when these wicked men saw that his body could not be consumed by the fire, they commanded the executioner¹ to go near, and pierce him with his sword. Which being accordingly done, there came forth² so great a quantity

¹ Both the Greek text and Eusebius, have here the Latin word *comitatora*. The *confectores* were persons appointed to kill the wild beasts, at the public games; if there was any apprehension of their injuring the people. They differed from the *bestiarii*, who fought with the beasts, in somewhat the same manner as the *matador* does from the combatant in the Spanish bull-fights.

² The original words are ἐξῆλθε περιστέρα καὶ πλῆθος αἵματος. There came forth a dove, and a quantity of blood.

Eusebius, and his translator Rufinus, make no mention of this prodigy; and no tradition of the kind is contained in any ancient Christian writer. It has been conjectured, with some probability, that the word *περιστέρα* is an error for ἐπ' ἀριστέρᾳ, ‘on the left side:’ so that the sentence would be to this effect, “when the executioner wounded him with his sword, there came forth from the wound, which was inflicted in his left side, such a quantity of blood, as extinguished the fire.”

of blood, as extinguished the fire, and raised an admiration among the people, to consider what a difference there is between the infidels and the elect, one of which this admirable martyr Polycarp was, being in our times a truly apostolical and prophetical teacher, and the Bishop of the Catholic Church which is at Smyrna. For every word that proceeded out of his mouth either is (already) fulfilled, or will (in due time) be accomplished.

17. But when the emulous and envious and wicked adversary of the race of the just saw the greatness of his martyrdom, and considered how blameless his conversation had been from the beginning, and that he was now crowned with the crown of immortality, having without all controversy received his reward, he took all care that not the least relic of his body should be taken away by us, although many desired to do it, and to have a share in his holy flesh. And to that end he suggested to Nicetas, the father of Herod, and brother of Alce, to go to the governor, and hinder him from giving his body to be buried: lest, said he, forsaking him that was crucified, they should begin to worship this Polycarp. And this he said at the suggestion and instance of the Jews, who also watched us that we should not take him out of the fire: not considering that it is impossible for us either ever to forsake Christ, who suffered for the salvation of all such as shall be saved throughout

the whole world, (the righteous for the ungodly),^u or to worship any other. For him indeed, as being the Son of God, we adore. But for the martyrs, we worthily love them,^x as the disciples and imitators of our Lord, on account of their exceeding great love towards their Master and King; of whom may we also be made companions and fellow-disciples.

18. The centurion, therefore, seeing the contention of the Jews, put his body into the midst of the fire, and burned it. After which, we, taking up his bones more precious than the richest jewels, and tried above gold, deposited them where it was fitting. Where being gathered together as we have opportunity, with joy and gladness, the Lord will grant unto us to celebrate the anniversary^y of

^u 1 Pet. iii. 18. These words appear to be an interpolation. They are not found in Eusebius nor in the old Latin version.

^x This valuable testimony of the Church of Smyrna, against the adoration of Saints, agrees with the sentiments of Augustin; “Non sit nobis religio cultus hominum mortuorum; quia, si piè vixerunt, non sic habentur ut tales querant honores: sed Illum à nobis coli volunt, quo illuminante, lætantur meriti sui nos esse consortes. Honorandi ergo sunt propter imitationem, non adorandi propter religionem.” Augustin. De Verâ Religione, c. 55.

^y τὴν τοῦ μαρτυρίου αὐτοῦ ημέραν γενέθλιον, the birth-day of his martyrdom.

The celebration of the anniversary of the day on which a martyr suffered began thus to be observed, early in the second century. At the end of the fourth, and in the beginning of the fifth century, we find from Chrysostom and Theodoret (Serm. viii. de Martyribus) that these days were greatly increased in

his martyrdom, both in memory of those who have suffered, and for the exercise and preparation of those that may hereafter (suffer).

19. Such were the sufferings of the blessed Polycarp, who, though he was the twelfth of those

number. There are extant sixteen homilies of Chrysostom, preached on different days set apart for such commemorations. Bingham, Eccles. Ant. xiii. 9. 5. quotes Chrysostom, Hom. xl. in Jubentinum, to prove that the festival of Babylas and Jubentinus then occurred on two successive days. The passage, however, merely implies that the festival of Babylas occurred soon before that of Jubentinus: the one, indeed, on the 4th of September, the other on the 25th of January.

'Ο μακάριος Βαβύλας πρώην ἡμᾶς ἐνταυθα μετὰ παιῶν τρίσιν συνηγαγε· σήμερον στρατιωτῶν ξυνωρὶς ἀγίων, τὸ τοῦ Χριστοῦ στρατόπεδον ἐπὶ τῆς παρατάξεως ἔστησε. Chrysos. Hom. in Juventin. Tom. v. p. 533. Savil.

Chrysostom makes the same kind of allusion to the previous festival of Pelagia, on the 8th of October, in his Homily upon the martyrdom of Ignatius, on the 20th of December.

Πρώην γοῦν ἡμᾶς κόρη κομιὲν νέα καὶ ἀπειρόγαμος ή μακαρία μάρτυς Πελαγία μετὰ πολλῆς τῆς εὐφροσύνης εἰστίασε· σήμερον πάλιν τῆς ἐκείνης ἑυρτῆς ὁ μακάριος οὗτος καὶ γενναῖος μάρτυς Ιγνατίος διεδέξατο. Chrys. Hom. in Ignat. Tom. v. p. 498. Savil.

The only two festivals which appear to have occurred on consecutive days in the Eastern Church, in the time of Chrysostom, were those of Romanus and Barlaam on the 18th and 19th of November.

These anniversaries of the days on which the martyrs suffered were called their birth-days, as being the days on which they were freed from the trials of mortality, and born, as it were, into the joys and happiness of heaven. Thus Tertullian de Coron. Militis, c. 3. says, "Oblationes pro defunctis pro natalitiis annua die facimus." Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, writing to his Presbyters and Deacons respecting their treatment of the Confessors, then in prison, thus advises them; "Denique et dies eorum quibus excedunt annotate, ut commemorationes

who, together with them of Philadelphia, suffered martyrdom, in Smyrna, is yet alone chiefly had in memory of all men; insomuch that he is spoken of by the very gentiles themselves in every place, as having been not only an eminent teacher, but also a glorious martyr. Whose death all desire to imi-

morationes eorum inter memorias martyrum celebrare possimus." Cyprian, Ep. xii. p. 27. (Fell.) And, in another Epistle to the same persons, he says, with reference to Laurentius and Ignatius; "Sacrificia pro eis semper, ut meministis, offerimus, quoties martyrum passiones et dies anniversariâ commemoratione celebрамus." Epist. xxxix. p. 77. Fell.

After Cyprian himself had suffered for the faith, we find Peter Chrysologus, in his Sermon on the Martyrdom of Cyprian, using the like expressions: "Natalem sanctorum cùm audistis, fratres, nolite putare illum dici, quo nascuntur in terram de carne; sed de terrâ in cœlum, de labore ad requiem, de temptationibus ad quietem, de cruciatibus ad delicias, non fluxas sed fortes et stabiles et æternas, de mundanis risibus ad coronam et gloriam. Tales natales dies martyrum celebrantur.

In the time of Constantine, the observation of the festivals of the martyrs was enforced by a decree of the Emperor. Euseb. de Vit. Constant. iv. 23.

The manner of celebrating the memories of the Martyrs and Confessors, in the primitive Church, was this.

On the anniversary day, the people assembled, sometimes at the tombs where the martyrs had been buried. They then publicly praised God for those who had glorified him by their sufferings and death; recited the history of their martyrdom, and heard a sermon preached in commemoration of their patience and Christian virtues. They offered up fervent prayers to God, and celebrated the Eucharist, in commemoration of Christ's passion, and gave alms to the poor.

They kept also a public festival, provided by general contribution, to which the poorer brethren were freely admitted. In the early ages these feasts were frugal and temperate; but afterwards degenerated into excess.

tate, as having been in all things conformable to the Gospel of Christ. For having by patience overcome the unjust governor, and so received the crown of immortality, he now, together with the apostles and all other righteous men, with great triumph glorifies God even the Father, and blesses our Lord the Governor of our (souls and) bodies,^z and the Shepherd of the Catholic Church throughout the world.

20. Whereas, therefore, ye desired that we would at large declare to you what was done, we have for the present briefly signified it to you by our brother Marcus. When, therefore, ye have read this Epistle, send it also to the brethren that are more remote, that they also may glorify God, who makes such choice of his own servants, and is able to bring us all by his grace and help to his eternal kingdom, through his only begotten Son Jesus Christ; to whom be glory, honour, might, and majesty, for ever and ever; Amen. Salute all the saints. They that are with us salute you: and Evarestus, who wrote this Epistle, with his whole house.

21. Now the martyrdom of the blessed Polycarp was on the second day of the month Xanthicus,

^z The Greek has κυβερνήτην τῶν σωμάτων ήμῶν. The old Latin version has, salvatorem animæ nostræ, gubernatorem corporum: and adds, at the conclusion of the sentence, et Spiritum Sanctum, per quem cuncta cognoscimus.

that is the seventh of the Calends of May,^a on the great Sabbath, about the eighth hour. He was taken by Herod, Philip the Trallian being the chief priest,^b Statius Quadratus proconsul; but our Saviour Christ reigning for evermore. To Him be honour, glory, majesty, and an eternal throne, from generation to generation; Amen.

22. We wish you, brethren, all happiness, by living according to the rule of the Gospel of Jesus Christ; with whom, glory be to God the Father, and the Holy Spirit, for the salvation of his chosen saints: after whose example the blessed Polycarp suffered; at whose feet may we be found in the kingdom of Jesus Christ.

THIS Epistle was transcribed by Caius out of the copy of Irenæus the disciple of Polycarp, who also lived and conversed with Irenæus. And I Socrates transcribed it at Corinth, out of the copy of the said Caius. Grace be with all.

AFTER this, I Pionius again wrote it from the copy before mentioned, Polycarp having pointed it

^a The 26th of April.

^b Or Asiarch. See note on c. 12.

out to me by a revelation, as I shall declare in what follows; having gathered these things together, already almost corrupted by length of time: that Jesus Christ our Lord may also gather me together with his elect. To whom with the Father and the Holy Ghost, be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

PART II.

THE
APOLOGY OF JUSTIN MARTYR
FOR THE
CHRISTIANS
TO ANTONINUS PIUS.

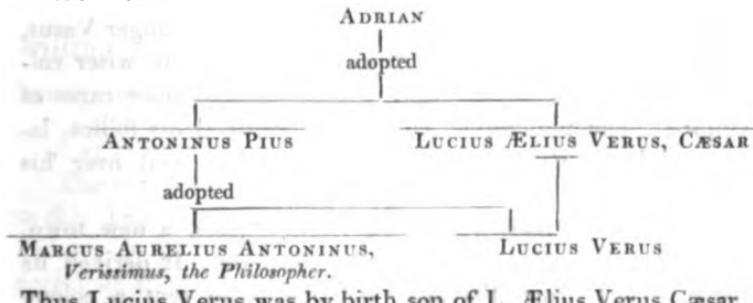
1. To the Emperor Titus *Ælius Adrianus*
Antoninus Pius Augustus Cæsar, and to his son ⁵³^a
Verissimus the Philosopher, and to Lucius the
Philosopher, the son ^b of (*Ælius Verus*) Cæsar by

^a The figures in the margin refer to the pages in the Paris Edition.

^b The Emperor Adrian adopted Lucius *Ælius Verus*, and gave him the title of Cæsar. This Lucius died; leaving only one son Lucius Verus.

Adrian then adopted Titus Antoninus Pius, as his successor, upon condition that he should adopt both Marcus Aurelius Antoninus, who is here called Verissimus, his wife's brother's son, and Lucius Verus, the son of *Ælius Verus*.

The following scheme will shew the relation in which Lucius Verus stood towards Antoninus Pius and Lucius *Ælius Verus*.



Thus Lucius Verus was by birth son of L. *Ælius Verus Cæsar*, and the *adopted* son of Antoninus Pius. The apology of Atheneagoras

birth, and of Pius by adoption, the lover of learning; and to the sacred Senate, and to all the Roman people, in behalf of those of all nations who are unjustly hated and persecuted, I Justin, the son of Priscus, and grandson of Bacchius, natives of Flavia Neapolis^c of Syria Palestine, being myself one of those (who are so unjustly used) offer this address and supplication.

2. Reason herself dictates that those, who can with propriety be denominated Pious and Philosophers, should love and honour truth alone, and refuse to follow the opinions of the ancients, if plainly erroneous. For right reason not only forbids us to assent to those who are unjust, either in practice or in principle, but commands the lover of truth, by all means, to choose that which is just in word and deed, even in preference to his own

nagoras is in like manner inscribed to Marcus Aurelius and Lucius Ælius, or Aurelius Verus, the philosophers.

Of Lucius Verus the following character is given by Gibbon, (Book 1. ch. 3.). “He was adopted by Pius; and on the accession of Marcus was invested with an equal share of sovereign power. Among the many vices of this younger Verus, he possessed one virtue: a dutiful reverence for his wiser colleague, to whom he willingly abandoned the ruder cares of empire. The philosophic emperor dissembled his follies, lamented his early death, and cast a decent veil over his memory.”

^c Flavia Neapolis was, as its name implies, a new town, built near the ruins of Sychem, in Samaria. It derived its name Flavia from Flavius Vespasian, who sent a colony thither.

life, and under the threatened danger of immediate death. Now ye hear continually ascribed to yourselves the appellations, Pious, Philosophers, Guardians of Justice, and Lovers of Learning: but whether ye also really are such, the event will shew. For we have come before you, not to flatter you in this address, nor to obtain favour by words of adulation, but to demand that judgment may be passed according to strict and well-weighed reason; that ye be not influenced by prejudice or the desire of pleasing superstitious men, nor, through inconsiderate passion, and the long prevalence of an evil report, pass a sentence, which would turn against yourselves. For we are fully persuaded that we can suffer no injury from any one, unless we are found guilty of some wickedness, or proved to be ⁵⁴ bad men: and kill us, ye may; but hurt us ye cannot.

3. That no one, however, may imagine this to be an unfounded and rash boast, we entreat that the charges against Christians may be examined; and if they be proved to be well founded, we are willing that they should be punished as they deserve, or even to punish them ourselves.^a But if

^a αξιοῦμεν—κολάζεσθαι ὡς πρέπον ἐστὶ, μᾶλλου δὲ κολάζειν.

The translation expresses the sense which Fabricius gives to this difficult passage. A similar sentiment is found at the end of ch. 22. "We even entreat that those who live not agreeably to their doctrines, but are merely called Christians, may be punished by you."

Other explanations of the words are given by Thirlby.

no one has any proof to bring against them, right reason requires that you should not, in consequence of an evil report, injure innocent men, or rather yourselves, since your decisions would be influenced not by judgment but by passion.

Every wise man will agree, that an appeal of this nature can then only be conducted equitably and well, when subjects have the privilege of giving, without interruption, a full account of their lives and opinions; and princes, on the other hand, pass sentence in all godliness and true philosophy, and not according to the dictates of violence and arbitrary power: since by so doing, both princes and subjects would secure their own interest. For even one of the ancients hath somewhere said, “Unless both princes and subjects be influenced by true philosophy, the state can never prosper.”^c It will be our care, therefore, to give all men the power of examining our lives and doctrines, that we may not suffer for the errors blindly committed by such as determine to be ignorant of our opinions: and it will be your duty, as right reason requires, when ye have heard the cause, to be just judges. For if, when ye shall have been so informed, ye do not what is just, ye will be inexcusable before God. A name in itself ought not to be judged

^c Plato de Republicā. v. Tom. ii. p. 473. D. This was a favourite maxim of Antoninus the philosopher, and was, therefore, judiciously introduced by Justin Martyr.

favourably or unfavourably, without the actions which that name implies. Although, as to our name, which is made a subject of accusation against us, we are the best of men.¹ But as we should think it unjust that, if we are proved to be guilty, we should demand to be acquitted in consequence of possessing a good name, so on the other hand, if we are proved to be innocent of all offence both in the name which we bear, and in the lives which we lead, it will be for you to beware, lest, if you unjustly punish the guiltless, ye yourselves should be exposed to the vengeance of justice. From a mere name neither praise nor blame can justly arise, unless something either good or bad can be proved by actions. For you pass not sentence upon any that are accused among yourselves, until they are 55 condemned; but against us you receive the very name as an accusation; whereas from our name you ought rather to punish our accusers. For we are accused of being Christians: but to hate that which is good, (which Chrestus implies) is manifestly unjust. And again, if any one of those also who are so accused, denies it, asserting that he is not, ye dismiss him; ye release him as if ye had nothing

¹ Χριστότατοι. The names Christus and Χριστός were frequently confounded; sometimes fancifully enough. Thus Theophylus ad Autolycum, p. 69. B. ἐγώ μὲν οὐν ὄμολογώ είναι Χριστιανός, καὶ φορῶ τὸ θεοφιλές ὄνομα τοῦτο, ἐλπίζων εὑχρηστός είναι τῷ Θεῷ. And again, p. 77. B. See Tertullian Apol. c. 3.

whereof to accuse him. But if any one confesses that he is a Christian, ye punish him for his confession: whereas ye ought to inquire into the life both of him who confessed and of him who denied, that by their deeds it might be made manifest what kind of man each of them was.

4. For as some, who have been taught by our master Christ not to deny him, even when tortured, exhort (others to embrace the faith); so it may happen that men of evil lives may afford a pretence to others, who are anxious to accuse all Christians of impiety and injustice. But this too is unjustly done. For many assume the name and garb of Philosophy, who act not at all in conformity with their character. And ye well know that men holding opposite opinions and doctrines amongst the ancients, are styled by the common name of philosophers. Now some of these taught atheism; and some who were poets attributed even to Jupiter the grossest indulgences, with his own children. Yet those who give publicity to such opinions receive no prohibition from you. Nay, ye even propose prizes and honours to such as shall eloquently express these disgraceful histories of your gods.

5. Why then should we be thus treated, who openly avow our determination not to injure any one, nor to hold these impious opinions? Ye judge not righteous judgment, but under the excitement

of unreasonable passion, and lashed on by the scourges of evil demons, ye punish without judgment and without thought. For the truth must be spoken. Evil demons,⁶ in times of old, assuming various forms, went in unto the daughters of men, and committed other abominations; and so astonished the minds of men with the wonders which they displayed, that they formed not a rational judgment of what was done, but were hurried away by their fears; so that, not knowing them to be evil demons, they styled them gods, and addressed them by the name which each demon imposed upon himself. And when Socrates, in a spirit of true wisdom and research, endeavoured to bring all 56 this to light, and to lead men away from the worship of demons, the demons themselves so wrought by the hands of men who delighted in wickedness, as to put him to death, under the pretence that he was introducing new deities. And so in like manner do they act towards us. For not only was this declared to the Greeks by Socrates, at the suggestion of right reason, but also in other lands, by Reason, even the Word itself, which appeared in a bodily form, and was made man, and was called Jesus Christ. We, then, believing in him, declare that the demons, who did such

⁶ Ἐπεὶ τὸ παλαιὸν δαιμονες φαῦλοι ἐπιφανεῖας ποιησάμενοι, καὶ τυρακίας ἐμοίχευσαν καὶ παῖδας διέφθειραν, καὶ φόβητρα ἀνθρώποις ἔδειξαν.

things, not only are no gods,^h but are evil and unholy spirits, whose actions are not even equal to those of virtuous men. Hence it is that we are styled Atheists.^h

6. We confess, indeed, that we are unbelievers of such pretended gods, but not of the most true God, the Father of righteousness and temperance, and of all other virtues, in whom is no mixture of evil. But we worship and adore Him, and his Son, who came out from Him, and hath taught us respecting these things,ⁱ and respecting the host of

^h οὐ μόνον μὴ θεούς εἶναι φαμέν, ἀλλὰ κακοὺς καὶ ἀνοσίους δαίμονας. The common reading is μὴ ὄρθονς, which is plainly erroneous.

ⁱ See the note on the martyrdom of Ignatius, c. 3.

^k Ἀλλ' ἐκεῖνόν τε, καὶ τὸν πιρ' αὐτοῦ οὐδὲν ἐλθόντα καὶ διδάξαντα ήμᾶς ταῦτα καὶ τὸν τῶν ἀλλων ἐπομένων καὶ ἔξομοιονμένων ἀγαθῶν ἀγγέλων στρατὸν, πνεῦμα τε τὸ προφητικὸν σεβόμεθα, καὶ προσκυνοῦμεν, λόγῳ καὶ ἀληθείᾳ τιμῶντες.

The sense given in the translation is that usually affixed to these words, and supported by Bp. Bull, Defensio Fid. Nicenæ, Sect. ii. c. iv. 8. Justin had observed, in c. 5. that Socrates fell a victim to the cruelty of his countrymen instigated by evil demons; and that the same spirits caused the Gentiles to accuse the Christians of atheism. He shews, therefore, that the religion of Christ taught them that those spirits were no gods. "The object of our worship," he says, "is God the Father of righteousness and temperance, the author of every good thing. We adore Him, and his Son, who came out from Him. He it was who taught us fully what hath before been observed respecting evil angels, and their delusions, and hath also taught us that there is an innumerable host of good angels, who follow him and are made like unto Him. We worship also the Prophetic Spirit."

The parenthetical mention of evil and good angels is certainly harsh;

the other good angels, who follow Him and are made like unto Him; and the Prophetic Spirit; honouring them in reason and in truth. And to harsh; but may perhaps be justified when the words are considered in connection with the context.

The statement respecting the three persons of the Blessed Trinity, as the only objects of worship, is repeated in c. 16.

“We worship the Creator of the universe.—Again we have learned, that he, who taught us these things and for this end was born, even Jesus Christ—was the Son of Him who is truly God; and we esteem him in the second place. And that we with reason honour the Prophetic Spirit, in the third place, we shall hereafter show.”

Τὸν δημιουργὸν τοῦτε τοῦ παντὸς σεβόμενοι—τὸν διδάσκαλὸν τε τούτων γενόμενον ήμῖν, καὶ εἰς τοῦτο γεννηθέντα Ἰησοῦν Χριστὸν —ἥιὸν αὐτοῦ τοῦ ὄντως Θεοῦ μαθόντες, καὶ ἐν δευτέρᾳ χάρι
ἔχοντες, πνεῦμά τε προφητικὸν ἐν τρίτῃ τάξει, ὅτι μετὰ λόγου
τιμῶμεν, ἀποδείξομεν. Apol. p. 60. D.

Grabe follows Cave (*Primitive Christianity*, Part i. ch. i. p. 9.) by connecting *τὸν ἄγγελων στρατὸν* with *ημᾶς*. “Who instructed us, and the whole society of angels, in these divine mysteries.” Grabe supports this version by a reference to Eph. iii. 10. “Ινα γνωρίσθῃ νῦν ταῖς ἀρχαῖς καὶ ταῖς ἔξουσίαις ἐν τοῖς ἑπονταῖς, διὰ τῆς ἐκκλησίας, η̄ πολυποίκιλος σοφία τοῦ Θεοῦ” and quotes Irenaeus ii. 55. *Semper autem coexistens Filius Patri, olim et ab initio semper revelat Patrem, et angelis et archangelis et potestatibus et virtutibus, et omnibus quibus vult revelare Deus.*

Ashton, in a note subjoined to his edition of this apology, supposes that there is a dislocation in the words of the text, the clause—*καὶ τὸν τῶν ἄλλων ἄγγελων στρατὸν*—having been removed from the end of the sentence into the middle. The passage, with this alteration, will stand thus. ‘Αλλ’ ἐκεῖνόν τε,
καὶ τὸν παρ’ αὐτοῦ οὖν ἐλθόντα καὶ διδάξαντα ημᾶς ταῦτα, πνεῦμά
τε τὸ προφητικὸν σεβόμεθα καὶ προσκυνοῦμεν, λόγῳ καὶ ἀληθείᾳ,
τιμῶντες καὶ τὸν τῶν ἄλλων ἐπομένων καὶ ἔξομοιουμένων ἄγαθῶν
ἄγγελων στρατὸν.

“But we worship and adore, in reason and truth, Him, and his Son who came out from Him, and taught us these

every one who wishes to learn, we freely deliver our opinions, even as we have been taught.

7. But, some one will say, already some of those who have been taken have been proved guilty of crimes. And, in fact, ye do frequently condemn many, after having made diligent enquiry into the life of each one that is accused, and not in consequence of such charges as have been mentioned.¹ Moreover, this we readily confess, that

things, and the Holy Spirit; honouring also the host of the other good angels who follow him and are made like unto him."

Roman Catholic writers adduce this passage, as favouring the worship of angels. They place a comma after *ταῦτα*, and render the words to this effect: "We worship in reason and in truth, with all honour, Him, and his Son who came out from Him, and taught us these things, and the host of good angels which follow him and are made like unto Him, and the Prophetic Spirit."

In the passage, however, above quoted, and in many others, Justin plainly points out three persons only, the Creator, the Son, and the Prophetic Spirit, as the objects of Christian worship. Compare Apol. c. 77. 79. 85. 87.

See Bp. Kaye's "Account of the Writings and Opinions of Justin Martyr," Ch. II. p. 53.

¹ καὶ γὰρ πολλοὺς πυλλάκις, ὅταν ἐκάστοτε τῶν κατηγορημένων τὸν βίον ἔξεταζῆτε, ἀλλ' οὐ διὰ τοὺς προλεχθέντας, καταδικάζετε. If this passage is correct, its sense seems to be this:

"In the course of your various and discursive enquiries into the lives of so many as are brought before you under the general accusation of being Christians, there are doubtless many who are guilty of some crime, for which they may justly suffer punishment, although they would deserve no blame for the charge first alleged against them." The last clause, ἀλλ' οὐ διὰ τοὺς προλεχθέντας, is, however, so harsh, that we might almost suspect that Justin wrote, ἀλλ' οὐδὲ αὐτοὺς οὐκ ἐλεγχθέντας, or, if the word might be allowed, οὐ προελεγχθέντας. "Ye frequently

in the same manner as among the Greeks, those who hold any peculiar system of opinions, are all called by the name of philosophers, although their tenets be opposed to each other, so, in other countries, the name assumed by all those, who either have or profess true wisdom, is the same; for all are called Christians. Wherefore we require that the actions of all those who are accused before you may be examined; that he who is convicted may be punished as an evil doer, but not as a Christian.^m And if any one appears to be innocent, that he may be dismissed, as a Christian who hath done no evil. For we require you not to punish our accusers:ⁿ they are sufficiently recompensed by ⁵⁷ their own malice, and their ignorance of what is good.

8. Moreover, bear in mind that it is for your sakes that we thus speak; since it is in our power to deny, when we are questioned. But we choose not to live by falsehood. For out of our great love of an eternal and pure life, we desire to converse with God, the Father, and Creator of all things; and hasten to confess, inasmuch as we frequently condemn many, after ye have made enquiry into the life of each, but not even those, unless they have been first convicted of some crime."

^m 1 Pet. iv. 15.

ⁿ This is probably an allusion to the rescript of the Emperor Adrian, subjoined to this Apology, in which punishment is threatened against any who should calumniate the Christians.

lieve and are sure, that such as shew by their works that they follow God, and earnestly long to converse with him, in the place where no evil assaults them, shall be able to attain to those blessings. Such then, to speak briefly, are our expectations: such are the doctrines, which through Christ we have learned, and teach. Now Plato^o in like manner declared that Rhadamanthus and Minos will punish the wicked who shall come to them. The event, of which we speak, is the same; but we say that it will be accomplished by Christ: and that both souls and bodies will be united, and punished with eternal torments, and not, as he declares, for a thousand years only.^q If, notwithstanding, any one should say that all this is incredible or impos-

^o Plato, Gorgias. p. 524.

^p Plato, de Republ. Lib. x. p. 615.

Justin here plainly maintains the eternity of future punishments. When Justin M. speaks in his own person, he always describes the punishment of the wicked as eternal. See c. 12. 24. 29. at the end. 60 at the end. See also Apol. 2. p. 41. C. E. 45. E. 46. D. 47. D. There is a passage in his Dialogue with Trypho, however, in which his instructor describes the happiness of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked as enduring as long as God shall will:

οὐτως αἱ μὲν (ψυχαὶ) ἄξιαι τοῦ Θεοῦ φανεῖσθαι οὐκ ἀποθνήσκουσι ἔτι, αἱ δὲ κολάζονται ἐς τὸν αὐτὰς καὶ εἶναι καὶ κολάζεσθαι ὁ Θεός θέλη. p. 223. C.

If Justin is here to be considered as expressing his own sentiments, the apparent contradiction will be reconciled by supposing his opinion to be, that the eternity of the soul of man is not inherent, but that God wills the punishment of the wicked to be eternal. See Bp. Kaye's Account of Justin Martyr, Ch. v. p. 102.

sible, this error regards ourselves only, and no one else,⁴ as long as we are not proved guilty of any evil action.

9. Neither again do we honour with numerous sacrifices and garlands of flowers, those, whom men have invested with a bodily shape, and placed in temples, and then denominated gods. We well know that these are senseless and dead, possessing not the form of God. We imagine not that God hath such a bodily shape as some pretend to imitate, to his honour; and are persuaded that these images have not the form of God, but the names and figures of those evil demons which have appeared. For why should I repeat to you, who know so well, in what manner the workmen treat their materials, polishing, cutting, melting, and hammering, and frequently out of the meanest vessels, by merely changing their form, and fashioning them anew, giving them the name of gods?⁵ In our opinion this is not only unreasonable, but offers great dis-honour to God, who, although he possesses a glory and form which are inexpressible, is thus named after corruptible things and such as require care to preserve them. Ye well know, also, that those who are occupied in these works lead most impure

⁴ Compare Job xix. 4.

⁵ Compare Isai. iv. 12 - 20. It might be conceived that Justin Martyr had in view the history told of Amasis, in Herod. ii. 172.

lives, and, not to dwell upon particulars, practise
 58 all kinds of wickedness, so that they even corrupt
 the women who assist them in their works. O as-
 tonishing blindness ! that men thus impure should
 be said^s to form and change the fashion of gods,
 for the purpose of worship ; and that such men
 should be placed as guards of the temples where
 they are set up, not considering that it is impious
 either to imagine or to say, that men are the
 keepers of gods.

10. But we are firmly persuaded that God
 requires not from men material offerings, seeing
 that he hath given us all things. And we have
 been taught, and believe, and are sure, that they
 only are accepted of him, who imitate the perfec-
 tions of his holy nature, chastity, justice, humanity,
 and whatever other virtues belong to God, to whom
 no name can be ascribed.^t We have been taught
 also, that he, of his goodness, did in the beginning
 make all things of unformed matter, for the sake

^s λέγεσθαι is the reading of H. Stephanus, instead of λέ-
 γεσθε.

^t Justin expresses the same thought in c. 80. and in his second
 Apology, p. 44. ὅνομα δὲ τῷ πάντων πατρὶ θετὸν, ἀγεννήτῳ
 ὄντι, οὐκ ἔστιν. In the persecution, which took place after the
 death of Antoninus Pius, Attalus, in the midst of his torments,
 while being roasted in an iron chair by a slow fire, was asked,
 what was the name of God? his reply was, "God is not like
 man, he hath no name." Ο Θεὸς ὅνομα οὐκ ἔχει ὡς ἀνθρώπος.
 Euseb. H. E. v. 1. The same sentiment is found in the Cohor-
 tatio ad Græcos, ascribed to Justin, p. 19. B.

of men ; who shall, we know, be admitted to his presence, there to reign with him, in immortality and freedom from all suffering, if they shew themselves worthy, by their actions, in obedience to his will. For in the same manner as he created us from nothing, so we believe that they who choose such things as are well pleasing in his sight, shall, in consequence of that choice, be deemed worthy of immortality and communion with him. For to exist, at the beginning, was not in our own power. But to obey what is conformable to his will, making our choice by means of the rational faculties with which he hath endowed us, persuades us and leads us to faith.^u And we consider it to be of the utmost importance to every man, that he be not forbidden to learn these things, but be exhorted and persuaded to embrace them. For that which human laws never could have effected, the Word, which is divine, would have (already) performed, had not the evil demons disseminated many false and impious accusations, of which we are entirely guiltless, availing themselves of the assistance of that proneness to all evil, which, although various in its kind, exists in every man.

11. Now ye, when ye hear that we look for a kingdom, assume, without enquiry, that we speak of a human kingdom ; whereas we speak of that which is with God : as plainly appears from this,

^u Compare John vii. 17.

that when we are questioned by you, we confess that we are Christians, when we know that the punishment of death will be inflicted upon all who confess. For if we expected a human kingdom, 59 we should deny, that we might escape death ; and should seek to remain concealed, that we might obtain what we expect. But since our hopes are not fixed upon this present world, we care not for our murderers, knowing that at all events we must die.

12. Moreover, we aid and assist you to preserve peace, more than all other men : for we are firmly persuaded, that it is impossible that any man should escape the notice of God, whether he be an evil doer, or covetous, or a traitor, or a virtuous man : and that every one shall go into eternal punishment or happiness, according to that which his deeds deserve. For if all men knew this, no one would choose evil for a little time, knowing that he must go into everlasting punishment by fire ; but each would restrain himself, and adorn himself with all virtue, that so he might attain unto the good things which are of God, and be free from those torments. They, who offend against the laws and are exposed to the punishments which you impose, may endeavour to escape detection, knowing well that it is possible to elude the notice of human beings like yourselves. But if they had learned and were well assured, that it is impossible

for God not to know every thing which is done, nay even every thing which is thought, they would by all means live circumspectly, if it were but to avoid the punishment hanging over their heads, as even ye yourselves will confess.

13. But, it would seem, ye fear lest all should be just and holy in their lives, and ye should have none to punish. This would be an apprehension worthy of an executioner, but not of good princes. And we are persuaded that such suggestions arise, as we have before said, from those evil demons, who demand even offerings and worship from those who live a life contrary to reason. Neither do we suspect that ye, who follow after piety and philosophy,^x would do any thing against reason. But if ye also, in like manner with those inconsiderate men, honour established practices more than truth, then do what ye can: and the utmost that even princes can do, who honour the opinions (of men) more than the truth, is but as much as robbers in the desert could.^y And that your labour will be in vain the Word himself declares, than whom, with God his Father, we know no prince more royal and more just. For as all avoid the inheritance of the poverty, or disease, or disgrace of their parents, so will every one 60

^x Justin alludes to the appellations of the two Antonines, Pius and Philosopher. See. c. 2.

^y That is, put us to death. Compare cc. 2, and 60.

who is wise reject that which right reason commands him to refuse.²

14. Our teacher, the Son and Apostle³ of God the Father and Lord of all things, even Jesus Christ, from whom also we have obtained the name of Christians, hath foretold to us that all these things would come to pass. Wherefore we cleave steadfastly to all things which were taught of him, since whatsoever he before declared should happen, hath in deed been fulfilled. For this is the work of God (only); to declare events before they happen; and manifestly to bring them to pass, even as they were predicted.

15. We might now rest satisfied with what hath been said, and add nothing more, in the full assurance that our demands are perfectly consistent with justice and truth. But being well aware that the mind, once held captive by ignorance, doth not without great difficulty change, in an instant, its whole train of thought, we have determined to add a few words, to persuade those who are really lovers of truth; for, although difficult,

² Children inherit the property of their parents, and they justly claim it as their right. But no one requires to succeed to the poverty, or disease, or disgrace of his parent. In like manner, although established prejudices may have descended to us, we shall exercise our own judgment upon them: we shall consider whether right reason declares them to be part of the wealth or of the weakness of antiquity: and accordingly accept or reject them.

³ Heb. iii. 1.

we are persuaded that it is not impossible, that a plain representation of the truth should be sufficient to dissipate error.

16. With respect to the charge of impiety: what man of consideration will not confess that this accusation is falsely alleged against us? since we worship the Creator of this Universe, declaring, as we have been taught, that he requires not sacrifices of blood, and libations, and incense; and praise him to the utmost of our power, with words of prayer and thanksgiving, for all things which we enjoy. For we have learned, that the only honour which is worthy of him is, not to consume with fire what he hath given to us for our nourishment, but to distribute them to ourselves and to those who have need: and that our thankfulness to him is best expressed, by the solemn offering of prayers and hymns. Moreover we pour forth our praises^b for our creation, and every provision for our well-being; for the various qualities of all creatures, and the changes of seasons; and (for the hope) of rising again in incorruption, through faith which is in him. Again we have learned, that he who taught us these things, and for this end was born, even Jesus Christ, who was crucified under Pontius Pilate, the procurator of Judea, in the time of Tiberius Cæsar, was the Son of Him who is truly God, and we esteem him in the second place. And

^b The true reading is probably *αιρέσεις*, not *αιτήσεις*.

that we with reason honour the prophetic Spirit, in the third place, we shall hereafter show.^c For upon this point they accuse us of madness, saying
61 that we give the second place after the unchangeable and eternal God, the Creator of all things, to a man who was crucified ; (and this they do) being ignorant of the mystery which is in this matter ; to which we exhort you to take heed while we explain it.^d

17. For we have forewarned you to beware lest those demons, whom we have before accused, should deceive you, and prevent you from reading and understanding what we say. For they strive to retain you as their slaves and servants, and sometimes by revelations in dreams, and at other times again by magical tricks, enslave those who strive not at all for their own salvation. In like manner as we also, since we have been obedient to the Word, abstain from such things, and, through the Son, follow the only unbegotten God. We, who once delighted in fornication, now embrace chastity only : we, who once used magical arts, have consecrated ourselves to the good and unbegotten God : we, who loved above all things the gain of money and possessions, now bring all that we have into one common stock, and give a part to every one

^c Compare c. 6.

^d Justin here digresses, after his usual manner, and does not resume his argument till c. 31.

that needs: we, who hated and killed one another, and permitted not those of another nation, on account of their different customs, to live with us under the same roof, now, since the appearing of Christ, live at the same table, and pray for our enemies, and endeavour to persuade those who unjustly hate us; that they also, living after the excellent institutions of Christ, may have good hope with us to obtain the same blessings, with God the Lord of all.

18. And, that we may not seem to deceive you, we think it right to remind you of some few of the doctrines which we have received from Christ himself, before we proceed to the proof (which we have promised): and be it your care, as powerful princes,^c to enquire whether in truth we have thus been taught and teach. His words were short and concise; for he was no sophist, but his word was the power of God.^d With respect, then, to chastity, he spake thus: “Whosoever shall look on a woman to lust after her, hath already committed adultery in his heart before God.”^e And “If thy right eye offend thee, cut it out;^f for it is profitable for thee to enter into the kingdom of

^c οἵ δυνατῶν βασιλέων. H. Stephanus proposes to read οἵ δη συνετῶν βασιλέων, “as wise princes.”

^d 1 Cor. i. 24.

^e Matt. v. 28.

^f Justin has ἔκκοψον αὐτὸν—the word ἔκκοψον being taken from the following verse, for ἔξελε.

heaven with one eye, rather than with the two, to
62 be sent into everlasting fire."ⁱ And, "Whosoever
marrieth a wife that is put away from another man,
committeth adultery:"^k and, "There are some,
which were made eunuchs of men: and there are
some which were born eunuchs; and there are some
which have made themselves eunuchs, for the king-
dom of heaven's sake: but all receive not this."^l
Hence they who, under the sanction of human
laws, marry again, and they who look on a woman
to lust after her, are sinners in the sight of our
master. For not only he, who is an adulterer in
fact, is cast out by him, but he who wishes to com-
mit adultery: since not only the deeds but the
very desires are manifest to God. Nay many,
both men and women, of the age of sixty and
seventy years, who have been disciples of Christ
from their youth, continue in immaculate virginity;
and it is my boast to be able to display such before
the whole human race. For why should we men-
tion also the innumerable multitude of those, who
have been converted from a life of incontinence,
and learned these precepts? For Christ called not
the righteous nor the chaste to repentance, but
the ungodly, and the incontinent, and the unjust.
For thus he said; "I came not to call the righteous,

ⁱ Matt. v. 29. Mark ix. 47.

^k Matt. v. 32. Luke xvi. 18.

^l Matt. xix. 11, 12.

but sinners to repentance."^m For our heavenly Father prefers the repentance of a sinner to his punishment.

19. Again, concerning the love of all men he thus taught: "If ye love those who love you, what new thing do ye? for even the fornicators also do the same. But I say unto you, Pray for your enemies, and love those that hate you, and bless those that curse you; and pray for those that despitefully use you."ⁿ And that we should give to them that are in need, and do nothing for the sake of vain glory, he thus said; "Give to every one that asketh of you, and from him that would borrow of you turn not ye away."^o "For if ye lend to them from whom ye hope to receive, what new thing do ye? for even the publicans do the same."^p "But lay not ye up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and thieves break through: but lay up for yourselves treasures in the heavens, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt."^q "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall he give in exchange for it?"^r "Lay up therefore treasure in the heavens, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt." And, "Be ye

^m Matt. ix. 13. Luke v. 32.

ⁿ Matt. v. 44. 46. Luke vi. 27, 28. 32.

^o Matt. v. 42. Luke vi. 30.

^p Luke vi. 34.

^q Matt. vi. 19, 20.

^r Matt. xvi. 26. Luke ix. 25.

good and merciful, as your Father also is good and merciful; and maketh his sun to rise upon the
 63 sinners, and the righteous, and the wicked.”^{*}
 “Take no thought what ye shall eat, or what ye shall put on: are ye not better than the fowls and the beasts? Yet God feedeth them. Therefore take no thought, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall put on; for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of these things. But seek ye the kingdom of heaven, and all these things shall be added unto you.^t For where the treasure is, there also is the mind of man.”^u And, “Do not these things, to be seen of men: otherwise ye have no reward with your Father which is in heaven.”^x

20. That we should also patiently endure evil, and be kind to all, and not give place to wrath, he taught us in these words: “Unto him that smiteth thee upon the cheek, turn also the other: and him that taketh away thy coat or thy cloak hinder not.”^y “And whosoever is angry is in danger of the fire.”^z “And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, follow him twain.”^a “Let your good works shine before men, that they may see them, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”^b For

* Luke vi. 35, 36. Matt. v. 45.

^t Matt. vi. 25, &c. Luke xii. 22. 24, &c.

^u Matt. vi. 21. Luke xii. 34.

^x Matt. vi. 1. 9.

^y Matt. v. 39. Luke vi. 29.

^z Matt. v. 22.

^a Matt. v. 41.

^b Matt. v. 15.

we must not oppose: neither would he that we should imitate bad men, but hath commanded us by patience and meekness to withdraw all men from shameful and evil lusts. Which also we can shew to have actually taken place among us, in many, who have been subdued and changed from violent and tyrannical men, either by imitating the constancy of their neighbours' lives, or by observing the unusual patience of those with whom they travelled, when they were defrauded on the way, or by experiencing the faithfulness of those with whom they had any dealings.

21. That we should not swear at all, but speak the truth always, he thus commanded us: "Swear not at all: but let your yea be yea, and you nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil."^c And that we should worship God only, he thus taught us, saying, "The greatest commandment is, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve, with all thy heart, and with all thy strength, even the Lord who created thee."^d And when a certain man came to him, and said, "Good master;" he answered and said, "There is none good save one, that is God, who created all things."^e

22. Now whosoever are found not to live as Christ taught them, let it be publicly known that

^c Matt. v. 34. 37.

^d Matt. iv. 10. Mark xii. 30.

^e Matt. xix. 16, 17.

they are not Christians, although they should profess with their tongue the doctrines of Christ.

64 For he declared, that not they who only profess, but they who do his works shall be saved. For thus he said : “ Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.”^f “ For he that heareth me, and doeth what I say, heareth him that sent me.”^g “ And many shall say unto me, Lord, Lord, have we not eaten, and drunk,^h and done mighty works, in thy name? and then will I say unto them, Depart from me, ye workers of iniquity.”ⁱ “ Then shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth ; when the righteous shall shine as the sun: but the unrighteous shall be sent into eternal fire.”^k “ For many shall come in my name, covered outwardly with sheep’s clothing, but inwardly being ravening wolves: by their works ye shall know them. But every tree, which bringeth not forth good fruit, is hewn down, and cast into the fire.”^l And we even entreat, that those who live not agreeably to their doctrines, but are merely called Christians, may be punished by you.

^f Matt. vii. 21.

^g Matt. vii. 24. x. 40.

^h The Greek has, οὐ τῷ σῷ ὀνόματι ἐφάγομεν καὶ ἐπίσυμεν, καὶ δυνάμεις ἐποιήσαμεν; Ashton proposes to read οὐκ ἐνώπιον σοῦ ἐφάγομεν καὶ ἐπιόμεν, καὶ τῷ σῷ ὀνόματι δυνάμεις ἐποιήσαμεν. Compare Luke xiii. 26.

ⁱ Matt. vii. 22. Luke xiii. 26.

^k Matt. xiii. 42, &c.

^l Matt. vii. 15, 16. 19.

23. We make it also our principal endeavour in every place to pay tribute and custom to such officers as are appointed by you, even as we have been taught by him. For “at that time certain came unto him, and asked him, whether it were lawful to pay tribute unto Cæsar. And he answered, Tell me, whose image doth the tribute money bear? They said unto him, Cæsar’s. Then again answered he them, Render therefore unto Cæsar the things which are Cæsar’s, and unto God the things which are God’s.”^m Wherefore we worship God only: but in all other matters we joyfully serve you, confessing that ye are kings and rulers; and praying that ye may be found to possess, together with your royal power, a sound and discerning mind. If, however, notwithstanding we thus pray, and openly lay every thing before you, ye yet treat us with contempt, we shall receive no injury, believing, yea rather being firmly persuaded, that every one, if his deeds shall so deserve, shall receive the punishment of eternal fire; and that an account will be required of him, in proportion to the powers which he hath received from God; as Christ hath declared, saying, “To whomsoever God hath given much, of him shall be much required.”ⁿ

24. For look to the end of each of the Emperors who have already reigned, that they died

^m Matt. xxii. 17, &c.

ⁿ Luke xiii. 48.

the common death of all men: and well would it be for the wicked,^o if this were merely a passage 65 into a state of insensibility. But since both sense remains in all who have ever lived, and eternal punishment is reserved (for the wicked), take heed that ye be persuaded and believe that these things are true. For the very acts of necromancy,^p the inspection of the bodies of pure children,^q (for the

^o ἔρμαιον ἀν ἦν τοῖς ἀδίκοις πᾶσιν. Justin seems to allude to a similar phrase in his master Plato: εἰ μὲν ἦν ὁ θάνατος τοῦ παντὸς ἀπαλλαγὴ, ἔρμαιον ἀν ἦν τοῖς κακοῖς ἀποθανοῦσι. Phædo. p. 107.

^p See Tertullian's Apology, c. 23.

^q Justin here refers to a barbarous practice frequently alluded to by writers both of ecclesiastical and profane history. Immaculate children of both sexes were slain, and their entrails inspected for the purpose of divination, under the persuasion that the souls of the victims were then present, and revealed the knowledge of futurity to those who consulted them.

Thus Dionysius, Bishop of Alexandria, as preserved by Eusebius, H. E. vii. 10. relates that, in the ninth persecution under Valerian, the emperor was instructed by the chief of the Magi of Egypt, in many abominable rites, and taught "to murder wretched infants, and sacrifice the children of miserable parents; and to examine their tender entrails." Τελέτας δὲ ἀνάγνους καὶ μαγγανείας ἐξαγίστους καὶ ιερουργίας ἀκαλλιερήτους ἐπιτελεῖν ὑποτιθέμενος, παιδας ἀθλίους ἀποσφάττειν, καὶ τέκνα δυστήνων πατέρων καταθύειν, καὶ σπλάγχνα νεογενῆ διαιρεῖν. Eusebius also, in two places, mentions among the enormities perpetrated by the tyrant Maxentius, that he filled up the measure of his guilt by having recourse to magical arts, among which was the inspection of the entrails of new-born children. Ἡ δὲ τῶν κακῶν τῷ τυράννῳ κορωνίς ἐπὶ γοντείαν ἥλαυνε· μαγικαὶς ἐπινοίαις τοτὲ μὲν γυναικας ἐγκύμονας ἀνασχίζοντος, τοτὲ δὲ νεογνῶν σπλάγχνα βρεφῶν διερευνώμενον. Eusebius, H. E. viii. 14. Vit. Const. i. 36.

Socrates states the same brutal treatment to have been used
by

purpose of divination,) the calling forth of human souls, and those whom your magicians call senders of dreams, and familiar spirits,¹ and the practices of those who are skilled in such matters, may induce you to believe that souls after death are still in a

by the Pagans towards the Christians, in the time of Julian, in various cities, and particularly at Athens and Alexandria. "At that time, the Gentiles made a furious attack upon the Christians: and those who called themselves philosophers were gathered together. They established also certain horrid rites, so that they even slew many young children, both male and female, for the purpose of inspecting their entrails, and also tasted their flesh."

Τηγικάντα καὶ οἱ Ἐλληνες τῶν χριστιανίζοντων κατέτρεχον. σύρροιά τε τῶν φιλοσοφεῖν λεγόντων ἐγίνετο. Καὶ τελετάς τινας συνίστασαν, ὡς καὶ σπλαγχνοσκοπούμενοι παιδίας καταθύειν ἀφθύρουν, ἄρρενας καὶ θηλείας, καὶ τῶν σαρκῶν ἀπογεύεσθαι. Socrat.

H. E. iii. 13.

In the work called the Recognitions of Clement, which is at least as old as the time of Origen, by whom it is cited, (Philocal. c. 23.) Simon Magus is made to say; "By means of ineffable adjurations I called up the soul of an immaculate boy, who had been put to a violent death, and caused it to stand by me: and by its means whatever I command is effected." And again, "(The soul freed from the body) possesses the faculty of foreknowledge: whence it is called forth for necromancy."

"Pueri incorrupti et violenter necati animam adjuramentis ineffabilibus evocatam adsistere mihi feci; et per ipsam fit omne quod jubeo." "Statim et praescientiam habet (anima), propter quod evocatur ad necromantiam." Recognit. Clemensis, Lib. ii. c. 13.

¹ πάρεδροι. Valesius in his notes on Euseb. H. E. iv. 17. shews that by this word were meant spirits, who assisted the Magicians and performed their orders. Ireneus, Hær. i. 20. says that the followers of Simon Magus had both the kinds of spirits here mentioned. Qui dicuntur *paredri* et *oniropompi* et *quæcunque* sunt alia perierga apud eos studiosè exercentur.

state of sensibility. To these may be added the men who are seized and thrown down by the souls of the departed,⁹ who are commonly called demoniac and mad; and what are styled oracles among you, such of those of Amphilochus, and Dodone, the Pythian, and the like: the opinions also of writers, such as Empedocles, Pythagoras, Plato, and Socrates: the trench mentioned by Homer,¹⁰ and the descent of Ulysses to see these things; together with the tenets of those who have spoken to the same effect. Give us, now, but the same degree of credit which you give to them; inasmuch as our confidence in (the power of) God is not less, but greater, than theirs: for we expect that we shall each again take upon us our bodies which are dead and cast into the earth, holding that nothing is impossible to God.

25. And if any one considered the matter well, would this appear more incredible than it would, if we were not in the body, and any one should assert that it was possible for bones and tendons and flesh to be formed, as we see in the human body, out of a minute drop of seminal mat-

⁹ Such as the demoniacs, described in Matt. viii. 28. Mark v. 3. Luke vii. 25. Josephus, Bell. Jud. vii. 6. 3. in like manner describes demons as the spirits of wicked men. Τὰ γὰρ καλούμενα δαιμόνια, ταῦτα δὲ πονηρῶν ἐστιν ἀνθρώπων πνεύματα, τοῖς ζῶσιν εἰσδυόμενα καὶ κτείνοντα τοὺς βοηθείας μὴ τυγχάνοντας, αὗτη (ἡ ρίζα Βαάρας) ταχέως ἔξελαύνει.

¹⁰ Od. λ. 25. 37, &c.

ter? For let us suppose an imaginary case. If ye were not such as ye are, nor of such an origin, and any one should shew you the generating substance, and a painted representation (of the human form), and should persist in affirming that the one could be produced from the other, would ye believe him before ye saw the effect produced? No one would be bold enough to assert, that ye would. In the same manner, ye now disbelieve, because ye never saw a dead man raised to life. But even, as ye would not at first have believed, that from a little drop of seminal matter such bodies could be formed, which yet, ye see, are formed; so consider that it is not impossible for human bodies, decomposed, and, like seed, resolved into earth, to arise, in due season, at the command of God, and to put on incorruption.^u We pretend

^u The argument here used by Justin, is frequently employed by the early Christian writers. Tertullian de Resur. Carnis c. 11. says, “Idoneus est reficere (carnem,) qui fecit: quantò plus est fecisse, quām refecisse: initium dedisse, quām reddidisse. Ita restitutionem carnis faciliorem credas institutione.” See also Tertullian Apol. c. 48. Irenæus argues, with a plain reference to this passage of Justin, how much more difficult it is that bones and tendons and veins, and the rest of the body made after the fashion of a man, should be caused to exist, and to become a pious, and rational being, when as yet it existed not, than that, having once been made and resolved into earth, it should be restored to a form which it once possessed, even if it should have been reduced to the same state in which it was, before it was first made man.

Καίπερ πολλῷ δυσκολότερον καὶ ἀπιστότερον ήν, ἐκ μηδότων ὁστέων τε καὶ νεύρων—καὶ τῆς λοιπῆς τῆς κατὰ τὸν ἄνθρωπον

not to say, how worthy an estimate of divine power
 66 they form, who maintain that every thing returns
 to its original whence it proceeded, and that beyond
 this even God can do nothing: but we plainly see
 this, that they would not have believed it possible,
 for beings like themselves, and for the whole world,
 to have existed, and to have had their origin, in the
 manner which their own observation now discovers.

26. We have already assumed that it is better
 to believe things, which in their own nature and by
 the power of men are impossible, than to disbelieve
 as others do. Since we know how our master Jesus
 Christ said, “The things which are impossible
 with men, are possible with God.”^x He said also,
 “Fear ye not them that kill you, and after that
 are able to do nothing: but fear him, who after
 death, is able to cast both soul and body into
 hell.”^y

27. Now hell is the place, where those shall be
 punished, who have lived unrighteously, and have
 not believed that the things shall come to pass,

*θρωπον οἰκονομίας, ποιῆσαι εἰς τὸ εἶναι, καὶ ἔμψυχον, καὶ λογικὸν
 ἀπεργάσασθαι ζῶον, ή τὸ γεγονός, ἐπειτα ἀναλυθὲν εἰς τὴν
 γῆν—αὐτὶς ἀποκαταστῆσαι, εἰς ἐκεῖνα χωρῆσαν ὅθεν τὴν ἀρχὴν
 μηδέπτω γεγονός ἐγεγύνει ὁ ἄνθρωπος.* Irenæus Hær. v. 3.
 p. 401. 32.

Athenagoras, in his argumentative treatise on the Resurrection of the body lays great stress upon the same reasoning. Athenag. de Resur. Carnis, p. 43. A. 59. A. See also the Apostolical Constitutions, Lib. v. Sect. 43. 7. p. 308.

^x Luke xviii. 27.

^y Matt. x. 28. Luke xii. 45.

which God hath taught through Christ. And even the Sibyl² and Hystaspes declared that there should be a destruction of corruptible things by fire. And those who are styled Stoic philosophers³ teach, that God himself will be resolved into fire; and affirm that the world shall be renewed by a change. But we entertain far higher notions respecting God, the Creator of all things, than that he should be subject to any change.

28. If then in some things we hold the same opinions with the poets and philosophers, whom ye honour, and in others entertain views more sublime and more worthy of the divine nature, and if we alone are able to prove what we say, why are we unjustly hated above all men? For when we affirm that all things were ordered and made by God, we hold apparently the same doc-

² —ρεύσει δὲ πυρὸς μαλεροῦ καταράκτη
'Ακάματος φλέξει δὲ γυῖαν, φλέξει δὲ θάλασσαν,
Καὶ πόλον οὐράνιον, καὶ ἥματα, καὶ κτίσιν αὐτὴν
Εἰς ἐν χωνεύσει, καὶ εἰς καθαρὸν διαλέξει.

CARM. SIB. Lib. iii.

Theophilus ad Autolycum, Lib. ii. p. 114. D. 116. A. appeals in like manner to the Sibyl. The author of the Quæstiones et Responsiones ad orthodoxos, a work falsely ascribed to Justin, says that Clement of Rome, in his Epistle to the Corinthians, appeals to the writings of the Sibyl, as testifying that the world should be destroyed by fire. In the present Epistle of Clement there is no such allusion. Grotius de Veritate Rel. Christ. i. 22. has accumulated several instances of the same tradition.

³ See Justin Martyr's second Apol. p. 45. Cicero De Nat. Deor. ii. 46.

trine as Plato: when we speak of a destruction by fire, we agree with the Stoics: in maintaining that the souls of the unjust are punished, retaining their consciousness even after death, and the souls of good men live happily, free from pain, we assent to what your poets and philosophers declare:^b when we say that we ought not to worship the works of men's hands, we agree with Menander the comic poet, and others who hold the same opinions; for they have shewn that the Creator is greater than the creature. And when we affirm that the Word, which is the first-begotten of God, was born without carnal knowledge, even Jesus
67 Christ our Master, and that he was crucified, and died, and rose again and ascended into heaven, we advance no new thing different from what is maintained respecting those, whom ye call the sons of Jupiter.^c

29. For ye well know how many sons your

^b Theophilus of Antioch, ad Autolycum, Lib. ii. p. 115. and Clemens Alexandrinus; Stromata, Lib. iv. p. 541. have collected many passages of heathen poets and philosophers, agreeing with different tenets of the Christian religion.

^c The object which Justin has in view, in the ensuing part of his Apology, although now void of interest, was important at the time in which it was written, when the heathen world was given up to idolatry. He endeavours to shew that the Gentiles could not consistently make it a matter of accusation against the Christians, that they believed in the incarnation of Jesus Christ the Son of God, when they themselves held opinions, which were fully as incredible, respecting their false gods.

approved writers attribute to Jupiter; Mercury, the word of interpretation and the teacher of all men: Esculapius, who was a physician, and yet struck with lightning and taken up into heaven: Bacchus, who was torn in pieces; Hercules, who burned himself upon the pile to escape his torments; Castor and Pollux, the sons of Leda; Perseus the son of Danæ; and Bellerophon, born of human race, and carried away upon the horse Pegasus.⁴ For why should I speak of Ariadne, and others also, like her, who were said to be raised among the stars of heaven? Nay, ye determine that the very Emperors, who die among you, shall always become immortal; and bring forward some one to swear that he saw Cæsar, who was burnt, going up to heaven out of the funeral pile. Neither is it necessary that I should relate to you, who already know well, of what kind were the actions of each of those who were called the sons of Jupiter; I need only say, that the writings, in which they are recorded, tend only to corrupt and pervert^{*} the minds of those who learn them: for all take a pride in being imitators of the gods. Now far be from every sound mind such conceptions concerning the gods, that even the very

⁴ Justin alludes to the same story respecting Bellerophon in c. 71. The mythological history was not, however, that Bellerophon was carried to heaven on Pegasus, but that he made the attempt and failed.

* εἰς διαφθορὰν καὶ παρατροπήν.

leader and father of them all, as they account Jupiter, should be a parricide, as his father also was;^f should be a slave of the worst and basest passions, as in the instance of Ganymede and his adulteries with many women, and receive with approbation his sons who acted in like manner. But, as we have before said, the evil spirits did these things. And we have been taught that they only are immortalized, who live holily and virtuously before God: believing also that they who live an unjust life, and repent not, shall be punished in eternal fire.

30. But Jesus, who is called the Son of God, even if he had been but a man, in the ordinary sense, would yet by his wisdom have deserved to be called the Son of God; for all writers call Him God, who is the Father of gods and men: but if we say that he was begotten of God, in a manner far different from ordinary generation, being the Word of God, as we have before said, let this be considered a correspondence with your own tenets, when ye call Mercury the word who
68 bears messages from God. And if any one objects to us, that he was crucified; this too is a point of correspondence with those whom ye call

^f The word “parricide” does not always strictly mean the murderer of a parent. Jupiter was said to have dethroned, and, by some, to have emprisoned Saturn; and Saturn was accused of using still greater violence to his own father, Cœlus or Uranus.

the sons of Jupiter, and yet allow to have suffered, as we before stated. For the sufferings of their deaths are related to have been not similar to his, but different;^a so that he seems not to have been inferior to them even in the peculiar manner of his death: nay, in the progress of our address we shall shew, as we promised, that he is even superior: or rather this is already shewn; for he that is superior appears to be so from his deeds. Again, if we affirm that he was born of a virgin; let this be considered a point in which he agrees with what you (fabulously) ascribe to Perseus. And whereas we say that he made those whole, who were lame, palsied, and blind^b from their birth, and raised the dead; in this too we ascribe to him actions similar to those which are said to have been performed by Esculapius.

31. We desire also to make it fully apparent to you, that those things only which we affirm, and have learned from Christ and the prophets who went before him, are the truth, and more ancient than (what is recorded by) all other writers; and we do not require to be believed, because in some particulars we agree with them, but because we say the truth; and Jesus Christ,

^a In c. 72. Justin argues that the mystery of the cross was never imitated by any of the false gods.

^b *μηπούς*. This seems a better reading than *μονηπούς*. Thirlby shews that the word is used by Justin to signify "the blind," as in Trypho, p. 295.

who alone was properly born the Son of God, being his Word, and First-begotten and Power, and by his counsel made man, hath taught us these things, for the reformation and improvement of the human race. Before he was made man and dwelt among men, some,ⁱ at the instigation of those evil spirits of which we have spoken, declared through the fictions which the poets uttered, that these events had already happened; as also they have fabricated those infamous and impious actions which are reported of us, without witness or proof. Of this our refutation follows.

32. In the first place, we alone, although we express nothing but what is similar to the professions of the Greeks, are hated on account of the name of Christ, and, although innocent, are put to death as transgressors: whereas other persons, in different places, worship trees and rivers, and mice, and cats, and crocodiles, and (many) other brute beasts. Yet the same animals are not held sacred by all, but some in one place and some in another;

ⁱ φθάσαντές τινες διὰ τοὺς προειρημένους κάκους δαιμόνας, διὰ τῶν ποιητῶν ὡς γενόμενα εἶπον, ἀ μυθοποιήσαντες ἔφησαν· ὃν τρόπον καὶ τὰ καθ' ἡμῶν λεγόμενα δύσφημα καὶ ἀσεβῆ ἔργα ἐνήργησαν.

There is probably some omission or error in the Greek text. The assertion of Justin seems to be, that the demons, whom he supposes to have inspired the heathen poets and mythologists, had obtained some imperfect knowledge of the actions which Christ should perform, and purposely framed the stories of the false gods so as to anticipate them.

so that all are accounted impious one to the other, for not worshipping the same objects.—And this is the only thing of which ye can accuse us, that we worship not the same gods which ye worship, and offer not libations, and the perfume of the fat of beasts, to the dead, nor crowns and sacrifices to images.^k—For ye well know that the same things 69 are regarded by some as gods, by others as beasts, and by others again as victims.

33. In the second place, we, out of every nation, who formerly worshipped Bacchus the son of Semele, and Apollo the son of Latona, whose infamous abominations it is a shame even to mention, together with Proserpine and Venus, who were inflamed with passion for Adonis, and whose mysteries ye celebrate, or any others of those who are called gods, do now for the sake of Jesus Christ despise all these, even under the threat of death: and dedicate ourselves to God who is unbegotten^l and without passions; of whom we believe not (as ye believe of Jupiter) that under the influence of base passion he followed Antiope, or others in like manner, or Ganymede, nor that he was loosed from bonds by (Briareus) with an hundred hands, at the solicitation of Thetis; nor on that account was anxious that Achilles, the son of Thetis, should slay

^k ἐν γραφαῖς στεφάνους. Salmasius reads ἐν ράφαις στεφάνους, crowns sewed together.

^l αὐτομήτω. See note (q) on Ignatius's Epistle to the Ephesians, c. 7. p. 76.

many of the Greeks,^m for his concubine Briseis. Nay we pity those who believe such fables; and are persuaded that evil spirits are the authors of them.

34. In the third place, even after the ascension of Christ into heaven, the evil spirits have put forward certain men, who said that they were gods: and these men were so far from being persecuted by you, that they were thought worthy even of honours. For instance, there was one Simon, a Samaritan, from a village named Gitton, who under Claudius Cæsar performed magical wonders in your imperial city Rome, through the art and agency of evil spirits; and was regarded as a god, and had a statue erected to him among you. This statue stood by the river Tiber, between the two bridges, having upon it this Latin inscription,

SIMONI DEO SANCTO.ⁿ

And almost all the Samaritans, and some also in other nations, confess him to be the first of the

^m Il. B. 4.

ⁿ The account which Justin here gives of the statue erected to Simon Magus, is followed by Tertullian, (Apol. c. 13.) Irenæus, (i. 20.) Eusebius, (H. E. ii. 13.) and many others of the Fathers; and was not doubted till the year 1574, when a stone was dug up in the Island of the Tiber, with the inscription, SEMONI SANCO (or SANGO) DEO FIDIO SACRUM SEX. POMPEIUS S. P. F. COL. MUSSIANUS QUINQUENNALIS DECUB BIDENTALIS DONUM DEDIT.

Since that time, many have supposed that the similarity of names led Justin into an error; and that he attributed to Simon

gods, and even worship him; and say that a certain Helena, who travelled with him at that time, and formerly had been a prostitute, was the first

Simon Magus an honour which was really paid to Semo Sanctus, a god of the Sabines.

It is certainly possible enough that Justin should have been mistaken. But it must be observed that the inscriptions, although similar, are not the same, the order of the words being different: that the statue to Simon Magus is said (Justin, Apol. c. 73.) to have been dedicated by the Roman people, whereas that to Semo Sanctus is a private offering of Sextus Pompeius. The statue of Simon Magus was in the form of Jupiter: (Iren. i. 20. p. 95. 25. *Imaginem quoque Simonis habent factam ad figuram Jovis.* Cyril. Catechis. 6. p. 87. Oxon. (*ἐν εἰδέσι Δίους*) Epiphan. Hær. 21. c. 3.) that of Semo represented Hercules.

The objections of Valesius (in Euseb. H. E. ii. 13.) and of Bagnage, (Exercit. Hist. p. 573.) founded on the assertion that the Romans never attached the epithet *sanctus* to their gods, nor employed the words *Deo Sancto* in an inscription, are proved to be incorrect. There are numerous passages of the poets, and of Cicero,^(*) in which *sanctus* is so used: and inscriptions are extant with the words, *Apollini Sancto*, *Aesculapio Sancto*, and the like; and with the very words in dispute, *Deo Sancto Apollini Pacifero*. Gruter, Inscr. xxxviii. 7.

It is also said, but I know not on what authority, that the statue attributed to Simon Magus was of brass, whereas that discovered was of stone.

The accuracy of Justin is questioned by Basnage, Exercit. Histor. p. 570; by Antonius Van Dale, in his *Dissertatiuncula de statuā Simoni Mago erectā*, by Valesius, Grabe, and many others. The defenders of Justin's correctness on this point are Baronius XLIV. 55. Halloix, in his life of Justin, Tillemont, Tom. II. Part I. p. 341. and p. 176. and Jenkin, in his *Defensio S. Augustini adversus Joan. Phereponi animadversiones*, p. 176. Thirlby, in his notes on the passage, pretends

(*) Catullus Lxiv. 269. Lxviii. 5.

Tibullus i. 3, 52. Ovid. Met. i. 372. Cicero pro P. Sextio. 68.

Pro Milone 31. In Verrem, i. 19. v. 72.

Intelligence^o which proceeded from him. We know to defend the accuracy of Justin; and, in his usual way between jest and earnest, brings much information to bear upon the point.

^o Irenæus i. 20. and after him, Tertullian de Animâ, c. 34. and Theodoret de Fabul. Hæret. Lib. i. ii. give an account of the strange doctrines maintained by Simon Magus. He called himself the most sublime virtue, or the Supreme Father; and affirmed that Helena was the first conception of his mind, the mother of all things, by whom in the beginning he conceived in his mind the idea of creating the angels and archangels. For that this first conception, or Ennœa, springing forth from him, and knowing her father's will, descended into the lower parts, and produced the angels and powers, by which again the world was formed. But after she had produced them, she was herself detained by them through envy, since they were unwilling to be thought to be the offspring of any other; that is, as Bp. Kaye interprets the words (Tertullian, c. vii. p. 575.) not to be self-existent. These inferior angels knew not the Supreme Father, and detained his Ennœa, that she might not return to her father; subjecting her to every indignity, and imprisoning her in various female bodies, transferring her from one to another, as liquid is poured from vessel to vessel. That thus she was in that Helen, who was the cause of the siege of Troy; and Stesichorus, who spoke against her in his verses, was therefore deprived of his sight, and afterwards, on his repentance and recantation, restored to the use of his eyes. That she thus transmigrated from body to body, always exposed to insults, and at last was reduced to the condition of a prostitute. That she was the lost sheep, mentioned in the parable: wherefore Simon himself descended, to recover and release her from her bonds, and afford salvation to mankind by acknowledging her.

For since the angels governed the world amiss, each desiring the sovereign power, he had come to amend all things, and had appeared as the Son in Judæa, when he suffered in appearance and not in reality. That the prophets had been inspired by the angels, and were to be no more regarded by those who believed in him and in Helena. He concluded with the impious doctrine, which many heretics have maintained, that

his

also that one Menander,^p a Samaritan also, from the village of Capparetæa, a disciple of Simon, received power from the evil spirits, and being in Antioch deceived many by magical art. He per- 70 suaded also his followers that he should never die; and still there are some of his sect who profess to believe this.

35. There is also Marcion of Pontus,^q who is

his followers were perfectly free to live according to their own pleasure, for that men were saved by his grace, and not by good works. (*Secundum enim ipsius gratiam servari homines, sed non secundum operas justas*).

It is melancholy and humiliating to notice such blasphemous absurdities: but they shew of what the mind of man is capable, when it is left to its own imaginations, and how surely erroneous notions lead to flagitious practice.

^p Menander was the disciple of Simon Magus, and the master of Saturninus. He declared that the First Virtue, or Supreme Power, was unintelligible to all: but that he himself was sent from the invisible world, as a Saviour for the salvation of mankind. With respect to the creation of the world by the angels, and their being sent forth from the Enneæa, or first Intelligence, he agreed with Simon: and averred that the magical science which he possessed was given him, that he might overcome the angels, who made the world. He affirmed also that the baptism which he conferred upon his disciples was a true resurrection, and that those who received it were incapable of death, and would continue to live for ever without experiencing the inconveniences of old age. He dissuaded his followers from encountering martyrdom. *Irenæus i. 21.* *Tertullian de Animâ, c. 23. 50.* *De Resurrect. Carnis, c. 5.* *Eusebius H. E. iii. 26.*

^q Marcion lived in the reign of Antoninus: (*Tertullian de Præscrip. c. 30.*) and that this was Antoninus *Pius*, appears from *Irenæus iii. 4*, who states that he flourished in the time of Anicetus, the tenth Bishop of Rome, who lived in the reign of

even now teaching his followers to profess, that there is some other God, greater than he who created the world. This man, through the assistance of evil spirits, hath caused many in every nation to speak blasphemies, and to deny that the Creator of the universe was God ; maintaining that some one else, of superior power, hath exceeded that Creator by executing greater works. And yet all, who have sprung from these sects, as we have stated, are called Christians. In the same manner as those, who do not hold the same opinions as the philosophers, are still included under the common appellation of philosophy. Now whether they are guilty of any of those infamous acts which are reported,¹ such as the putting out of the lights, and

of Antoninus Pius. Euseb. H. E. iv. 10, 11. and Chronicon. Irenæus gives an account of his tenets. (Lib. i. 29.) His heresy arose from his wish to reconcile the existence of evil, with the perfect power and wisdom and goodness of the Supreme Being : and this he endeavoured to do by supposing that the world was created by an inferior being, who was the author of evil ; and that the Supreme Being himself was unknown to mankind until he was revealed by Christ. Tertullian wrote five books against Marcion : and the best account of the opinions of that heretic is given by the Bp. of Lincoln, in his luminous epitome of those books. Bp. Kaye's Tertullian, ch. vii. pp. 474—505. Eusebius, H. E. iv. 11. in quoting this passage, expresses himself as if it occurred in a book of Justin written against Marcion.

¹ These calumnies were constantly brought against the Christians ; and are refuted in all their apologies. Compare Justin, Apol. 2. p. 50. Dial. p. 227. Tertullian, Apol. cc. 2, 7. 8. Ad Nationes 1. c. 2. Minucius Felix ; Octavius, cc. 9, 30. They are

promiscuous intercourse, and feeding on human flesh, we know not; but we know that they are not persecuted nor put to death by you, even on account of their peculiar doctrines. We have also a treatise composed against all the heresies which have arisen, which, if you wish to peruse it, we will produce.

36. But we are so far from committing any (such) injustice or impiety (as is implied in the charge of devouring children), that we have learned that none but wicked men expose infants when they are born. First,¹ because we see, that almost all such are brought up in the vilest manner, and for the basest purposes, whether they be male or

are mentioned also by the martyrs, who suffered in the persecution after the death of Antoninus Pius, (Euseb. H. E. v. i. p. 133. A.) by Athenagoras (Legat. p. 4.) and by Origen (Contra Celsum, Lib. vi. p. 293—4.) as having been advanced at the beginning of Christianity. He attributes the origin of the accusation to the Jews. Καὶ δοκεῖ μοι παραπλήσιον Ἰουδαίοις πεποιηκέναι (Κέλσος) τοὺς κατὰ τὴν ἀρχὴν τοῦ Χριστιανισμοῦ διδασκαλίας κατασκεδάσασι δυσφημίαν τοῦ λόγου· ὡς ἄρα καταθύσαντες παιδίον μεταλαμβάνουσιν αὐτὸν τῶν σαρκῶν. κ.τ.λ.

¹ Πρῶτον μὲν, ὅτι τοὺς πάντας σχεδὸν ὄρῳμεν ἐπὶ πορνείᾳ προάγοντας, οὐ μόνον τὰς κόρας, ἀλλὰ καὶ τοὺς ἄρσενας· καὶ ὃν τρόπον λέγονται οἱ παλαιοὶ ἀγέλας βιών ἢ αἰγῶν, ἢ πρυβάτων τρέφειν, ἢ ἵππων φορβάδων, οὕτω νῦν καὶ παῖδες εἰς τὸ αἰσχρῶς χρῆσθαι μόνον, καὶ ὁμοίως θηλεῖων καὶ ἀνδρογύνων, καὶ ἀρρήτοριῶν πλῆθος κατὰ πᾶν ἔθνος ἐπὶ τούτου τοῦ ἄγους ἔστηκε.—Καὶ τῶν τυύτοις χρωμένων τίς, πρὸς τὴν ἀθέων καὶ ἀσεβεῖς καὶ ἀκρατεῖ μίξει, εἰ τύχοι, τέκνῳ, ἢ συγγενεῖ ἢ ἀδελφῷ μίγνυται. Οἱ δὲ καὶ τὰ ἑαυτῶν τέκνα, καὶ τὰς ὁμοζύγους προαγωγεύονται. Καὶ φανερῶς εἰς κιναιδίαν ἀποκόπτονται τινὲς, καὶ εἰς μητέρα θεῶν τὰ μυστήρια ἀναφέρουσι.

female : and are every where publicly exposed, even as men of old reared for sale herds of oxen, or swine, or sheep, or horses. And ye receive the hire^t and tribute and custom of these persons, when ye ought to cut them off from the face of your empire. I abstain from mentioning the horrible, and even incestuous, offences which hence frequently occur ; the manner in which men sometimes prostitute their children and their wives ; or the shocking offerings which are made to her, whom ye call the mother of the gods. And, indeed, in the worship of all those who are accounted gods
71 among you, a serpent is represented as a great symbol and mystery. (Ye accuse us also of extinguishing the lights, that we may give way to gross indulgences :) thus what ye openly practise and hold in honour, as if the divine light (of reason and natural sense of right and wrong) were overthrown and extinguished in you, ye falsely attribute to us : but this brings no blame upon us, who are free from all such abominations, but rather upon those who do them, and bear false witness. For, as ye may learn, by enquiry, from our scriptures, the leader of the evil demons is by us called the Serpent, and Satan, and the Devil,"

^t Compare Suetonius, Caligula : c. 40. This disgraceful tribute was finally removed by a law contained in Justinian, tit. xl. Lib. xi.

" Rev. xx. 2. See Dial. with Trypho, p. 331.

who, as Christ hath foretold, shall be sent into fire with all his host, and such men as follow him, to be punished for endless ages. For the cause why God hath hitherto delayed the execution of this is the human race. For he foreknows that some shall be saved by repentance, and some perhaps who are not yet born : and at the first he formed the human race intelligent, and able to choose the truth and to be happy,^x so that all men should be without excuse before God; for they are made capable of reason and foresight. But if any one believes not that God cares for such things, such a man must either profess that God exists not at all,^y or affirm that, if He exists, he delights in evil ; or else that he remains as insensible as a stone : and that virtue and vice are nothing ; but that men judge actions to be good or bad merely by their own opinion ; which is the greatest impiety and injustice.

A second reason^x for our not exposing infants is, lest any one so exposed should not be taken up, but perish ; and thus we should be murderers.

37. Moreover, we either marry at first, for no other object than to rear children, or else abstain-

^x εὐ πράττειν.

^y οὐ μὴ εἶναι αὐτὸν διὰ τεχνῆς ὀμολογήσει. For διὰ τεχνῆς should probably be read either ἀτεχνῶς or δὶ' αἰνάγκης.

* Justin here takes up again the subject of exposing children, from which, in his usual discursive manner, he had deviated, at the beginning of this Section.

ing from marriage, continue to live in a state of continence. And already one of our religion, in order to persuade you that promiscuous concubinage is not a religious mystery with us, (as ye falsely allege) presented a written petition to Felix the governor, at Alexandria, praying that he would permit a physician to mutilate his person ; an operation which the physicians there said they were not at liberty to perform, without the governor's leave. And when Felix altogether refused to grant his permission, the young man still persisted in his resolution of continence, satisfied with his own conscience, and that of his Christian brethren.

72 Here also we may mention Antinous, who lately died, and whom all, through fear (of offending the Emperor Adrian) were eager to worship as a god, knowing well what kind of character he bore, and whence he was.

And that no one may advance this objection against us, " What should hinder us from believing, that he who by us is called Christ, was a man of merely human origin, who performed the wonders, which we speak of, by magical art," and on that

* Absurd as this objection may appear, it was one which the early Christian Apologists thought it necessary to anticipate, and on that account sometimes laid greater stress on prophecy than on the miracles of Christ. Compare Irenæus ii. 57. Lactantius v. 3. *Disce igitur, si quid tibi cordis (cordi) est, non idcirco à nobis Deum creditum Christum, quia mirabilia fecit, sed quia vidimus in eo facta esse omnia quæ nobis annunciata*

account was considered to be the Son of God?" we will proceed now to bring forward a proof. We will not rely upon testimony, but shall necessarily be persuaded by prophecies delivered before the events; since we see with our own eyes that events have taken place, and are now taking place, according to the predictions. And this proof will, we imagine, appear to you also the most perfect and most true.

38. There were, then, among the Jews certain men, who were Prophets of God, by whom the prophetic Spirit proclaimed future events before they came to pass. And the kings, who were over the Jews in those days, possessed and preserved with great care the prophecies of these men, as they were first delivered, in books composed by the prophets themselves, in their own Hebrew language. Now when Ptolemy, king of Egypt, was forming his library, and endeavouring to collect the writings of all men, he heard of these prophecies, and sent

nunciata sunt vaticinio prophetarum. Fecit mirabilia: magum putassemus, ut et vos nuncupatis, (nunc putatis) et Judæi tunc putaverunt, si non illa ipsa facturum Christum prophetæ uno spiritu prædixissent. In another place (iv. c. 13.) Lactantius replies to the objection, said to have been made by the oracle of Apollo, and assented to by some of the Jews, that the miracles of Jesus were performed by magic, by an appeal to the fulfilment of prophecy, as a continual miracle going on before their eyes.

Origen meets the same objection, with different reasons. *Contra Cels.* ii. p. 88. seq.

to Herod^b who then ruled over the Jews, desiring that the books of the prophecies might be sent to him. And Herod the king sent them written in their aforesaid Hebrew language. But since what was thus written in them could not be understood by the Egyptians, he again sent, and desired him to send men to translate them into the Greek language. This being done, the books have remained with the Egyptians even to this day: and they are also with all the Jews in every place. Yet the Jews who read, understand not what is written; but regard us with hatred and enmity, slaying and punishing us, even as ye do, whenever they are able; as ye may easily learn. For in the late Jewish war,^c Barchochebas, the leader of the Jewish insurrection, commanded the Christians only to be led

^b This is a mistake either of Justin, or of some of his transcribers. The person to whom Ptolemy sent was Eleazar, who, according to Philo Judaeus (Lib. 2. de Vitâ Mosis) was high-priest and king of Judea. Josephus (Ant. xi. 4. 8.) says that the high-priests had the supreme power, till the posterity of the Asamoneans established a monarchical authority.

Grabe supposes we should here read *ιερεῖ* for Ἱερωδῷ.

The account of the Septuagint version of the Old Testament given in the Cohortatio ad Græcos, p. 13, 14, which is ascribed to Justin, is somewhat different from this. It follows Philo, (De Vit. Mosis, Lib. ii.) in asserting that the seventy interpreters were each shut up in a different cell, and composed so many distinct versions, which all literally agreed.

^c In the 17th year of Adrian: Eusebius, H. E. iv. 6. and Chron. Eusebius says the cause of his enmity to the Christians was their refusal to unite with him against the Romans.

away to severe tortures, unless they denied Jesus Christ and blasphemed.

39. Now in the books of the prophets we find it predicted, that Jesus, our Christ, should come, should be born of a virgin, and be made man; that he should heal every disease, and all manner of sickness, and raise the dead: that he should be enviously treated, and not be known; that he should be crucified, and die, and rise again, and ascend into heaven; that he should be the Son of God; and so be called: that some should be sent by him to preach these things to every nation of mankind, and that men of the gentiles should more especially believe on him. Some of these prophecies also respecting him were delivered five thousand years before his appearing,^a some three thousand, some two thousand; and some again one thousand, and others eight hundred years. For in the course of successive generations, different prophets succeeded one another.

40. Moses then, who was the first of the prophets,^b wrote in these very words: "A prince

^a According to the chronology of Justin Martyr, somewhat more than 5000 years elapsed between the Creation and the birth of Christ. Theophilus (Ad Autolycum, Lib. iii. p. 138.) makes it 5515 years. Justin here, therefore, considers Adam as one of the prophets; agreeing with Theophilus (Lib. ii. p. 104.) Clemens Alexandrinus, (Strom. i. p. 335.) in like manner regards the names which Adam bestowed upon Eve, and upon all animals, as prophetic.

^b The first, whose writings are preserved. Here, and in
c. 71.

shall not fail from Judah, nor a ruler from between his feet,^f until He shall come, for whom it is reserved;^g and He shall be the expectation of the Gentiles, binding his colt to a vine, washing his garment in the blood of the grape.”^h Now it is for you to enquire diligently, and to learn, how long the Jews continued to have a ruler and a king of their own. It was until the appearing of Jesus Christ, our Master, and the interpreter of the prophecies which were not understood: as it was declared by the divine holy spirit of prophecy, in the writings of Moses, that a prince should not fail from the Jews, until he should come, for whom the kingdom was reserved. For Judah was the ancestor of the Jews, from whom also they have received their name. And ye, since Christ hath appeared, have both reigned over the Jews, and possessed all their country. Moreover, the expression, “He shall be the expectation of the Gentiles,” implied, that men of all nations should expect him to come again; and this ye may see with your own eyes, and be persuaded of by the fact itself. For out of all nations of men, they look for Him who was crucified in Judea; after

c. 71. the prophecy of Jacob is apparently ascribed to Moses who records it.

^f ἐκ τῶν μηρῶν αὐτοῦ. From his thighs.

^g ὃ ἀπόκειται—that this, and not ὁ ἀπόκειται, is the true reading, is plain from Justin's Dial. with Trypho, pp. 348, 349.

^h Gen. xl ix. 10.

whom the land of the Jews was immediately subjugated and given up to you.

41. The words,¹ “ Binding his colt to a vine, and washing his garment in the blood of the grape,” were a sign representing what should be done to Christ, and what he should himself perform. For an asses colt was standing in a certain village bound to a vine, which he then commanded his 74 disciples to lead to him ; and when it was brought, he sat thereon, and entered into Jerusalem, where was that most magnificent temple of the Jews, which was afterwards thrown down by you. And after these things, he was crucified ; that the rest of the prophecy might be fulfilled. For the words, “washing his garment in the blood of the grape,” predicted his passion, which he was to undergo, cleansing by his blood those who believe in him. For that which is called, by the prophet in the holy spirit, his garment, are the men which believe in him, in whom dwells the seed which is from God, even the word. And that, which is called “the blood of the grape,” indicates that he who was to appear should have indeed blood, but that he should have it by divine power, and not of human seed. And the principal power, after God the Father and Lord of all things, is the Son, the Word ; the manner of whose incarnation, and how

¹ This passage is explained in a similar manner, in the Dialogue with Trypho, pp. 272, 348.

he was made man, we shall hereafter shew. For as not man, but God, hath made the blood of the vine, so this intimated that the blood should not be of human seed, but of the power of God, as we before said.

42. Isaiah also, another prophet, predicting the same things in different words, thus spake :^k “There shall come a star out of Jacob, and a flower shall spring from the branch of Jesse :” “and upon his arm shall the Gentiles hope.”^l Now a shining star did rise, and a flower did spring from the root of Jesse, even this Christ. For through the power of God, he was born of a virgin, of the seed of Jacob, the father of Judah, who hath been shewn to be the father of the Jews. Moreover Jesse was his progenitor, according to the prophecy; and he was the son of Jacob and Judah by natural descent.

43. And again, hear how expressly it was predicted by Isaiah, that he should be born of a virgin. For thus it was spoken: “Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a son: and they shall say of his name, God with us.”^m For the things which appeared to be incredible and impossible with men, those did God predict by the prophetic Spirit; that when they came to pass, they should not be disbelieved, but believed, inasmuch as they were before

^k Justin here unites the prophecy of Balaam, Numb. xxiv. 17. with that of Isaiah xi. 1.

^l Isai. xi. 1, 10.

^m Isai. vii. 14. Matt. i. 2, 3.

declared. But lest some, "not understanding the prophecy which hath been advanced, should bring the same charge against us, which we make against 75 your poets, who say that Jupiter came down to women, under the influence of impure passions, we will endeavour to explain these words. Now, when it is said, "Behold a virgin shall conceive," it is implied that the virgin conceived without carnal intercourse with any one; or otherwise she would no longer have been a virgin. But the power of God coming upon the virgin overshadowed her, and caused her to conceive, although still a virgin. Moreover the angel of God, who was sent to the virgin at that very time, saluted her saying, "Behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, by the Holy Ghost, and shalt bear a son, and he shall be called the Son of the Highest; and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins."^o Thus they, who have recorded^r all things concerning our Saviour Jesus Christ, have taught: whom we believe; since the prophetic Spirit also declared, as we have shewn, by the above-mentioned Isaiah, that he should be so born. Moses, therefore, the prophet already quoted, declares,^s that we are not permitted to consider the

ⁿ οἵπως δὲ μή τινες μηδεύσαντες, κ. τ. λ.

^o Luke i. 31, 38. Matt. i. 21.

^r ἀπομνημονεύσαντες.—In c. 86. the Gospels are styled ἀπομνημονεύματα, memoirs.

^s Moses no where makes such an assertion; unless we

Spirit, and the Power which is from God, to be any other than the Word,¹ which is also the first-begotten of God. And this, coming upon the virgin and overshadowing her, not by carnal knowledge, but by (divine) power, caused her to conceive. The name also of Jesus, in the Hebrew tongue, hath the same meaning as Soter (Saviour), in the Greek language.² Wherefore also the angel said to the virgin, “And thou shalt call

suppose Justin to have alluded to some mystical interpretation of such a passage as Ex. iv. 22. “Israel is my son, my first-born.” Grabe supposes that Justin may have written Ἡσαῖα instead of Μωσῆς.

¹ The Spirit and the Word (*Λόγος*) seem here to be confounded. Compare c. 61, 85. Bp. Kaye observes, with reference to the passages of the early Fathers, in which *πνευμα* is used to signify the Divine Nature of Christ, “Perhaps the idea present to their minds was, that as, in the mystery of the Incarnation, the Holy Ghost came upon the Virgin, and the Power of the Highest overshadowed her, and the *Λόγος* thereby became flesh, the Holy Spirit, the power of the Highest, and the *Λόγος* were the same. But Justin attributes the inspiration of the ancient Prophets sometimes to the *Λόγος*, sometimes to the Holy Spirit. Here it is difficult to interpret the latter of the Divine nature in Christ; and yet the two appear to be identified. I know of no other mode of explaining this fact, than by supposing that, as the *Λόγος* was the conductor of the whole Gospel economy, Justin deemed it a matter of indifference, whether he said that the Prophets were inspired by the *Λόγος*, or by the Holy Spirit who was the immediate agent. The Holy Spirit is called in Scripture the Spirit of Christ. (Rom. viii. 9. Gal. iv. 6. Phil. i. 19. 1 Pet. i. 11. In the last passage the immediate reference is to the inspiration of the prophets).” Bp. Kaye’s Account of Justin Martyr, ch. ii. p. 72.

² Compare Dial. with Trypho, p. 44.

his name Jesus; for he shall save his people from their sins.”^t

44. Even ye yourselves, I imagine, will concede, that they who prophesy are inspired by nothing else but the divine word. Hear also how another prophet, Micah, predicted the very place where Christ should be born. For he spake thus: “And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, art not the least among the princes of Judah: for out of thee shall come a governor, that shall rule my people Israel.”^u Now Bethlehem is a village in the country of the Jews, five and thirty furlongs distant from Jerusalem; as ye may also learn from the taxing, which took place under Cyrenius who was your first prefect^x in Judea.

Hear, again, what was foretold, to shew that Jesus, when he was born, should not be known by other men, until he came to man’s estate, even as it came to pass. The prophecies are these.^y

* * * * *

45. “Unto us a child was born: unto us a young man was given: whose government is upon 76

^t Matt. i. 21.

^u Mic. v. 2, as quoted Matt. ii. 6.

^x ἐπίτρων—Grotius on Luke ii. 2. shews that Cyrenius could not have been procurator. The word ἐπίτρων is of general signification.

^y There is here probably an omission of some passages from the prophets.

his shoulders.”^z This is a prophecy of the power of the cross, against which he placed his shoulders when he was crucified, as shall be more clearly shewn as we proceed. And again the same prophet Isaiah, inspired by the Spirit of prophecy, declared, “I have stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gain-saying people, unto those who walked in a way that was not good.”^a “They ask of me now justice: and dare to draw nigh unto God.”^b And again in other words he saith by another prophet, “They pierced my feet and my hands, and cast lots for my vesture.”^c Now David, the king and prophet who said thus, suffered none of these things; but the hands of Jesus Christ were stretched out, when he was crucified by the Jews who spake against him, and said that he was not the Christ. For, as the prophet said, they in derision placed him upon a judgment-seat, and said, “Judge over us.” The words also, “They pierced my hands and my feet,” were a reference to the nails, which were fixed in his hands and feet upon the cross. And, after his crucifixion, they who crucified him cast lots for his vesture, and divided it among themselves. And that these things were done. ye may learn from the records of what took place under Pontius Pilate.^d To shew that it was

^z Isai. ix. 6.

^a Isai. lxv. 2. Rom. x. 21.

^b Isai. lviii. 2.

^c Ps. xxi. 17, 19.

^d Compare Justin Martyr’s Apol. c. 63. Tertullian, Apol. c. 5, 21.

expressly predicted, that he should sit upon the foal of an ass, and come into Jerusalem, we will mention the prophetic writings of another prophet, Zephaniah. The words are these: “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Sion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy king cometh unto thee, meek, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.”^c

46. Now, when ye hear the sayings of the prophets, as if they were delivered by some one person, imagine not that they are said by the inspired writers themselves, but by the divine word which moved them. For sometimes it prophetically declares what shall come to pass hereafter; sometimes it speaks as in the person of God the Father, and Lord of all; sometimes as in the person of Christ; and sometimes as in the person of the people who answer to the Lord, or to his Father. In the same manner as ye may see also in your own writers, that one person writes the whole, but introduces different persons as holding discourse. The Jews who had the books of the prophets, not observing this, knew not Christ, when he came; and more-

c. 5, 21. appeals to the information respecting Jesus Christ conveyed to the Emperor Tiberius by Pontius Pilate. These acts, or records, of Pilate were the memoranda of the daily transactions of his government.

^c Zech. ix. 9. Matt. xxi. 5. Justin Martyr in his Dialogue with Trypho, p. 273. quotes this prophecy correctly, from Zechariah, not from Zephaniah, as here.

77 over hate us, who say that he is come, and prove that he was crucified by them, as it was predicted.

47. And that this also may be plain to you; these words were spoken, in the person of the Father, by Isaiah the prophet, whom we have before mentioned: “The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master’s crib: but Israel doth not know me: and my people doth not consider. Ah, sinful nation, a people full of iniquity, an evil seed, wicked children: ye have forsaken the Lord.”^f And again in another place, where the same prophet speaks in like manner in the person of the Father. “What house will ye build me, saith the Lord. Heaven is my throne, and earth my footstool.”^g And again in another place; “Your new moons and your sabbaths my soul hateth, and the great day of fasting and rest I endure not; even if ye come to present yourselves before me, I will not hear you. Your hands are full of blood: even if ye bring fine flour and incense, it is an abomination unto me. I desire not the fat of lambs and the blood of bulls. For who hath required this at your hands.”^h “But loosen every band of wickedness, rend asunder the ties of violent contracts: cover the naked and him that hath no house: deal thy bread to the hungry.”ⁱ Thus,

^f Isai. i. 3, 4.

^g Isai. lxvi. 1.

^h Isai. i. 11, 12, 13, 14.

ⁱ Isai. lviii. 6, 7.

then, may ye understand what kind of precepts are delivered from God by the prophets.

48. When, again, the prophetic spirit speaks in the person of Christ, it expresses itself thus: "I have stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people, unto those who walked in a way that was not good."^k And again, "I gave my back to stripes, and my cheeks to buffetings: I turned not away my face from the shame of spitting. And the Lord was my helper. Wherefore I turned not: but I set my face as a solid rock; and I knew that I should not be ashamed, for he is near that justifieth me."^l And again, when he saith, "They cast lots for my vesture; and pierced my feet and my hands."^m "But I lay down and slept and rose up again: for the Lord sustained me."ⁿ And again, when he saith, "They spake with their lips, they shook the head, saying, let him save himself."^o All which things, as ye may learn, were done to Christ by the Jews. For when he was crucified, they pouted their lips, and shook their heads, saying, Let him that raised the dead save himself.^p

49. Moreover, when the prophetic spirit speaks to foretell things to come, it is in this manner. "For out of Sion shall go forth the law, and the 78

^k Isai. lxv. 2. Rom. x. 21.

^l Isai. l. 6, 7, 8.

^m Ps. xxii. 16, 17, 18.

ⁿ Ps. iii. 5.

^o Ps. xxii. 7, 8.

^p Matt. xxvii. 39.

word of the Lord from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people. And they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks. And nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.”^q And that it did so come to pass, ye may readily learn. For from Jerusalem twelve men went forth into the world, and they unlearned,^r not knowing how to speak. But by the power of God they preached to every nation of men, that they were sent by Christ to teach all men the word of God. Wherefore we who formerly killed one another, now not only abstain from fighting against our enemies, but are ready to meet death with cheerfulness, confessing the faith of Christ, rather than lie, or deceive those who persecute us. For we might, on such an occasion, have acted according to that saying (of the poet),^s

“My tongue alone hath sworn, and not my mind.”

However it would be absurd, while soldiers, once engaged and enrolled by you, adhere to the oath which they have made, in preference even to their own lives, their parents, their country, and all their families, when ye can offer them nothing immortal; that we, ardently desirous of immortality,

^q Isai. ii. 3, 4.

^r ἀλιώται. Acts iv. 13. 1 Cor. ii. 1, 4. 6. 13. 2 Cor. xi. 6.

^s Eurip. Hippolytus, 608.

should not endure every thing, in order to obtain the object of our wishes, from him who is able to fulfil them.

50. Hear also in what manner prophecy was made concerning those who preached his doctrine, and declared his appearing; the aforesaid prophet and king having thus spoken by the prophetic spirit: "Day unto day uttereth speech: and night unto night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech nor language whose voices are not heard. Their sound is gone out through all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world. In the sun he hath placed his tabernacle: and he (is) as a bridegroom going out of his chamber: he will rejoice as a giant to run his course."¹

51. In addition to these, we have thought it right and appropriate to mention some other prophecies, delivered by the same David; whence ye may learn in what manner the prophetic spirit exhorts men to live: and how it speaks of the conspiracy which was formed against Christ by Herod, king of the Jews, and the Jews themselves, and Pilate who was your procurator among them, with his soldiers: declaring that all nations of men ⁷⁹ should believe in Him; shewing that God calls him his Son, and hath promised to put all his enemies under him: in what manner the devils endeavour, as far as is possible, to escape the power of God

¹ Ps. xix. 2, 3, 4, 5. Rom. x. 18.

the Father and Lord of all things, and that of Christ himself: and how God calls all men to repentance, before the day of judgment shall come. The words are to this effect:^u “Blessed is the man, who hath not walked in the counsel of the ungodly, and hath not stood in the way of sinners, and hath not sat upon the seat of the scornful.”^x But his will is in the law of the Lord, and in his law will he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the water-courses, which shall give its fruit in its season: and the leaf whereof shall not fall off, and all which it beareth^y shall prosper. Not so the wicked, not so; but (they are) even as the chaff, which the wind scattereth from the face of the earth. Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the council of the righteous. For the Lord knoweth the way of the righteous, and the way of the ungodly shall perish.” “Why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things? The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Anointed, saying, Let us break their bonds asunder, and cast away their yoke from us. He that dwelleth in the heavens shall laugh them to scorn; and the Lord shall have them in derision. Then shall he speak unto them

^u Ps. i. ii.

^x λοιψῶν. Of pestilences.

^y ὁσα ἀ ποιῆ.

in his wrath, and in his anger he shall trouble them. But I am set up by him as a king, upon Sion his holy mountain, declaring the command of the Lord. The Lord hath said unto me, Thou art my Son, to day have I begotten thee. Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and for thy possession the extremities of the earth. Thou shalt rule them with a rod of iron; as vessels of a potter shalt thou dash them in pieces. And now, ye kings, be wise; be instructed, all ye that judge the earth. Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice in him with trembling. Receive instruction,^{*} lest haply the Lord be angry, and so ye perish from the right way, when his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him."

52. And again the prophetic spirit, declaring by the same David that Christ should reign after his crucifixion, spake thus: "Sing unto the Lord, all the earth, and shew forth his salvation from day to day. For the Lord is great, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the nations are idols of devils: but God made the heavens. Glory and praise are before his face; and strength and majesty^{*} in the

^{*} Δράξασθε παιδείας. This is the version of the Septuagint. Cappellus, Critica Sacra, Lib. iv. Sect. 5. p. 243. endeavours to shew how the difference between the present Hebrew reading and the Greek may have arisen..

^{*} Καύχημα.

place of his holiness. Give glory unto the Lord, the Father of the worlds^b: bring an offering,^c and come in before his face, and worship in his holy courts. Let the whole earth fear before his face, and be established, and not be shaken. Let them rejoice among the nations. The Lord hath reigned from the wood.”^d

53. But whereas the prophetic spirit speaks of future events, as if they were already past, as may have been observed in what hath been said, we will explain this also, that it may not perplex those who meet with it. (The spirit) speaks of things which it assuredly knows shall happen, as if they had already taken place. And that we must so

^b τῷ πατρὶ τῶν αἰωνῶν. The Sept. has *ai πατριαι τῷ εθνῷ*, “O ye kindreds of the people;” and Justin so quotes the passage in Dial. p. 299. A.

^c λάβετε χάριν.

^d Ps. xcvi. 1, 2. 4—10. Compare Col. ii. 14. 15.

The passage is thus quoted by many of the Fathers. Tertullian adv. Jud. c. 11. says, “Age nunc, si legisti penes prophetam in psalmis, Deus regnavit à ligno, expecto quid intelligas, ne fortè lignarium aliquem regem significari putetis, et non Christum, qui exinde à passione Christi (crucis) superatā morte regnavit.” And again, c. 13. Unde et ipse David regnaturum ex ligno Dominum dicebat. See also Tertullian adv. Marcion. iii. c. 19. Barnabas, Epist. c. 8. is supposed to recognize the words, when he says, ὅτι δὲ τὸ ἔριον ἐπὶ τῷ ξύλον; ὅτι οἱ βασιλεῖα τῶν Ἰησοῦ ἐπὶ τῷ ξύλῳ. Justin Martyr, in his Dialogue with Trypho, p. 298. accuses the Jews of having erased the words ἀπὸ τοῦ ξύλου. There is no trace, however, of the words in any Hebrew or Greek MS. of the Old Testament, or in Origen or Jerome.

receive these writings will be evident, if ye attend to the following considerations. David spake the words which have been recited, fifteen hundred years^c before Christ was made man and crucified: and yet no one, of those who lived either before David or after him, gave occasion of rejoicing to the heathen by his sufferings upon the cross. But now, in our days,^d Jesus Christ was crucified, and died, and rose again, and ascended into heaven, and reigned there; and, in consequence of what hath been preached in all nations, by the apostles sent from him, there is great joy to those who look for the immortality, which he hath promised.

54. And that no persons may imagine, from what we have now advanced, that we conceive events to happen by fatal necessity, because, as we have said, they are foreknown, we will explain this also. We have learned from the prophets, and declare it for a truth, that punishment and torments, as well as rewards, will be given to every one according to his works. For if this is not so, but every thing takes place by irresistible necessity,

^c In c. 39. Justin appears to allude to David, when he says, in round numbers, that some of the prophets lived one thousand years before Christ. Theophilus, (*ad Autolycum*, p. 138.) places David eleven hundred years before Christ. The chronology of Justin seems to have been rather loose; but it is probable that the numbers here have been altered by an error of a transcriber.

^d Ο καθ' ἡμᾶς Ἰησοῦς Χριστός.

then there is nothing at all in our own power. For if it is fated that one man must be good, and another bad, neither is the one to be praised, nor the other to be blamed. And again, if the human race hath no power, by its free will, to avoid the evil and to choose the good, it is not responsible for any actions of any kind. But that men do stand and fall by free will is thus shewn. We see that the conduct of the same man is different at different times. But if it was fated, that he should be either bad or good, he could never act so differently, nor change so frequently. Neither indeed
81 would some be good, and some bad : since in that case, we should represent fate as the cause of evil, and at variance with itself : or else we must profess that opinion to be true, which we have before mentioned,^a that virtue and vice are nothing, but actions are reckoned to be good or bad by opinion only ; which, as true reason plainly shews, is the greatest impiety and injustice.

55. But we say that this only is irreversibly determined, that they who choose what is good shall be proportionably rewarded, and in like manner, they who choose the reverse shall be punished as they deserve. For God did not make man like the other creatures, such as trees and four-footed beasts, incapable of doing any thing by free choice : since he would not be a fit object of reward or

^a c. 36.

praise, if he did not himself choose the good, but were so made; nor, if he were bad, would he deserve punishment, if he were not such by his own act, but were unable to become in any respect different from what he was made.

56. Now the holy prophetic Spirit taught us this, saying by Moses, that God thus spake to the man who was first created: "Behold, before thy face is good and evil; choose the good."^b Again it is thus spoken by another prophet, Isaiah, as in the name of God the Father and Lord of all things: "Wash you, make you clean, put away the evil from your souls: learn to do well: do justice to the fatherless, and avenge the widow; and come and let us reason together saith the Lord. Even if your sins should be as scarlet, I will make them as white as wool: and if they should be as crimson, I will make them white as snow. And if ye will, and will hearken unto me, ye shall eat the good of the land. But if ye will not hearken unto me, the sword shall devour you. For the mouth of the Lord hath spoken these things."ⁱ Now that which is said above, "The sword shall devour you," implies not, that they who are disobedient shall perish by the sword; but the sword of the Lord is the fire, by which those shall be consumed who choose to

^b Deut. xxx. 15, 19. Justin Martyr erroneously attributes to Moses an application made in Eccl. xv. 14—17.

ⁱ Isai. i. 16—20.

do evil. Wherefore he saith, “The sword shall devour you; for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.” But if he had spoken of the sword which cuts, and immediately ceases, he would not have said, it shall devour.^k

57. Wherefore also when Plato said,^l “The fault lies with him who chooses, but God is blameless;” he took it from the prophet Moses, who was more ancient than all the writers of the Greeks. And in all, which philosophers or poets have said concerning the immortality of the soul, or punishments after death, or the contemplation of heavenly things, or the like opinions, they could conceive and explain such notions only as they first derived from the prophets. Whence there appear to be the seeds of truth among them all: but they are proved not to have thoroughly understood them, since they so speak as to contradict themselves.

58. When therefore we say, that prophecies have been delivered respecting future events, we assert not that they were foreseen, because they happened by a fatal necessity; but that God, well knowing what the actions of all men would be, and having determined that he would reward every man according to his deeds, declared by

^k Justin’s interpretations are sometimes fanciful enough. The mouth of the sword, פִּתְחָרֶב is a common Hebrew expression. Jer. xxi. 7. Job i. 15, 17.

^l De Republ. x. p. 617. H. Steph.

his prophetic spirit, that his dealings with them would correspond with those actions, thus always leading the human race to reflection and repentance, and shewing his care and providence for them.

59. But the evil spirits denounced death against those who read the books of Hystaspes, or the Sibyl, or the prophets, that they might deter them from improving such an opportunity of learning what was for their real good, and retain them in slavery to themselves. But this purpose they could not entirely effect. For we not only fearlessly study these books, but, as ye perceive, offer them for your consideration, being assured that they will be well pleasing to all men. And even if we persuade but a few, our gain will be great: for as good husbandmen we shall receive the reward from our Master.

60. Hear also what was spoken by David the prophet, to shew that God the Father of all things would receive Christ into heaven, after having raised him from the dead, and retain him there, until he should tread under foot his enemies the devils, and the number of those should be fulfilled, who, as He foreknew, would be good and virtuous; for whose sake also the final destruction^m of all things by fire is yet delayed.

^m ἐκπύρωσιν for ἐπικύρωσιν, as in c. 28, 74. 77. and Apol. ii. p. 45. C.

The words are these: “The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool. The Lord shall send the rod of thy strength out of Jerusalem : and rule thou in the midst of thine enemies. With thee shall be the rule in the day of thy power, in the splendours of thy saints. From the womb, before the day-star, have I begotten thee.”ⁿ The words, “The Lord shall send the rod of thy strength out of Jerusalem,” are a prophecy of that powerful word, which the Apostles of Christ, who went out from Jerusalem, preached every where, although death was threatened against those who taught, or even confessed the name of Christ, and which we now every where embrace and teach. And if ye too receive what we now offer, in an hostile manner, ye can do no more, as we have already said,^o than slay us: which brings, in fact, no evil upon us, but will procure everlasting punishment by fire upon yourselves, and all those who hate us without reason, and repent not.

61. But, lest any one should unreasonably object to what is taught by us, saying that Christ was born but an hundred and fifty years since, in the time of Cyrenius, and taught what we ascribe to him still later, under Pontius Pi-

ⁿ Ps. cx. 1, 2, 3. This is the reading of the Septuagint. See Lud. Cappellus, Critica Sacra, Lib. iv. c. 2, 8. c. 11, 3.

^o Cc. 2, 13.

late, and should accuse us of maintaining that all men, who lived before that time, were not accountable for their actions, we will anticipate and solve the difficulty. We have learned, and have before explained, that Christ was the first-begotten of God, being the Word, or Reason, of which all men were partakers.^p They then who lived agreeably to reason, were really Christians, even if they were considered atheists, such as Socrates, Heraclitus, and the like among the Greeks; and among other nations Abraham, Ananias, Azarias, Misael, and Elias, and many others, the actions and even the names of whom we at present omit, knowing how tedious the enumeration would be. Those therefore who of old lived without right reason, the same were bad men,^q and enemies to Christ, and the murderers of those who lived agreeably to reason. Whereas they who ever lived or now live, in a manner which reason would approve, are truly Christians, and free from

^p Justin's notion was, that every degree of intelligence which men possessed, respecting the nature of the Deity, and their relation to him, was derived from a portion of the Divine reason, *λόγος*, communicated to them; but that the true believer in Christ only possesses this quality in perfection. He uses the word *λόγος* in different senses. Sometimes it denotes the Second person of the Trinity, the Word; sometimes reason or intelligence; and sometimes word or speech. This necessarily creates ambiguity in determining the sense of the term in any particular passage.

^q ἀχρηστοῖς, καὶ ἐχθροῖς τῷ Χριστῷ ἦσαν.

fear or trouble. From what we have already so fully stated, any intelligent man may understand, for what cause He was made man, and born of a virgin, by the power of the Word¹ and the counsel of God the Father and Lord of all things, and was named Jesus, and died on the cross, and rose again, and went up again into heaven. But since any further disquisition for the explanation of this point is not now necessary, we will proceed to the proof of that which is more closely connected with our present purpose.

62. Hear, then, what was spoken by the prophetic spirit, declaring that the whole land of Judea should also be laid waste. The words, it will be observed, are spoken in the person of the people themselves wondering at what was done; and they are these. “Sion is become a wilderness; Jerusalem is become as a wilderness: the house, our holy place, is accursed: and the glory, which our fathers blessed, is burned with fire. And all its glories are fallen down. And in these things thou didst refrain thyself, and didst hold thy peace, and afflict us very sore.”²

Now that Jerusalem is laid waste, as it was predicted it should be, ye have good proof. It was also thus spoken by Isaiah the prophet, concerning its desolation, and that no one should return

¹ See note (r) on c. 43. Compare Phil. ii. 7.

² Isai. LX. 10, 11, 12.

thither to dwell: "Their land is desolate: their enemies devour it before their face: and none of them shall dwell therein."^u Ye well know also that ye have forbidden any man to dwell there: and that the punishment of death is denounced against any Jew who shall be found within the place."^x

63. Hear also in what manner it was predicted that our Christ should heal all manner of diseases, and raise the dead. Thus it is said, "At his coming the lame man shall leap as an hart, and the tongue of the stammerer shall be eloquent, the blind shall receive their sight, and the lepers shall be cleansed, and the dead shall arise and walk,"^y And that Christ did these things ye may learn from the records of what was done under Pontius Pilate.^z Hear again what was said by Isaiah, foretelling by the prophetic spirit that Christ should be slain, together with those men who hoped in

^u Isa. i. 7.

^v Justin adds what is spoken, Jer. l. 3. respecting Babylon.

^x Tertullian (Apol. c. 21.) speaks of the Jews as banished from their country; and not even permitted as strangers to set foot upon their own land. He repeats the same assertion, adv. Judæos. c. 15. Eusebius, (H. E. iv. 6. and in his Chronicon,) states that an edict was made, in the eighteenth year of the Emperor Adrian, forbidding any Jew to approach within sight of Jerusalem. Valesius in his notes on Eusebius, H. E. shews that there was one day in the year, on which the restriction was removed.

^y Isa. xxxv. 5, 6.

^z See Justin Martyr's Apol. c. 45.

him. The words are these. “Behold, how the just man perisheth, and no man layeth it to heart: and merciful men are taken away, and no one considereth. The just man is taken away from before injustice: and his grave shall be in peace: he is taken away from the midst.”^a And again, how is it declared by the same Isaiah that the people of the Gentiles who expected him not, should worship him; but the Jews, who constantly expected him, should know him not when he came. The words were spoken as in the person of Christ; and are to this effect. “I was made known to them that looked not for me; I was found of them that sought me not: I said, Behold, here am I, to a people who called not upon my name. I stretched forth my hands to a disobedient and gain-saying people:

85 to those that walked in a way which was not good, but after their own sins: a people that provoketh to anger before me.”^b For the Jews, who had the prophecies, and always expected the Christ to come, not only knew him not, but evil entreated him. But they of the Gentiles, who had never heard any thing of Christ, until the apostles who went forth from Jerusalem declared what he had done, and delivered the prophecies respecting him, were then filled with joy; and renounced their belief in idols; and dedicated themselves to the unbegotten God

^a Isai. Lvii. 1, 2.

^b Isai. Lxv. 1, 2, 3. Rom. x. 21.

through Christ.^c Hear also what was briefly spoken by Isaiah, to shew that these harsh accusations should be brought against those who confessed Christ; and how wretched those should be who spoke ill of him, and maintained that the ancient customs ought to be preserved. His words are these: "Woe unto them that call sweet bitter, and bitter sweet."^d

64. Hear also in what manner it was prophesied, that he should be made man for us; and submit to suffer, and be set at naught; and should come again with glory. The words are these. "Because^e he hath given up his soul unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors; he hath borne the sins of many, and shall make intercession for the transgressors. For behold my Son shall understand, and shall be exalted, and shall be exceedingly glorified. As many shall be astonished at thee; so shall thy appearance be without honour, more than any men, and thy glory more than any men: so shall many nations wonder at thee; and kings shall shut their mouths at thee; for they to whom nothing had been told of thee,

^c Grabe observes, that this is a formula in which Catechumens, who were subsequently to be baptized, were dismissed from the Church. Such a formula is given by the author of the Apostolical Constitutions, (viii. c. 6.) as part of the bidding prayer, which the Deacon was to use for the Catechumens. Compare similar expressions in cc. 17. 33. 79.

^d Isa. v. 20.

^e Compare Epist. of Clement, c. 16.

and who had not heard, shall understand. Lord, who hath believed our report, and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed? We have declared before him, as (if he were) a child; as a root in a thirsty ground. There is no form in him, nor glory. Yea we saw him; and he had no form nor comeliness: but his form was without honour, and marred more than men. He was a man in stripes, and knowing how to bear infirmity. For his face was turned away, he was despised, and esteemed not. He beareth our sins and for us is he afflicted. And we considered him to be in trouble, in stripes, and in affliction. But he was wounded for our iniquities, and bruised for our sins. The chastisement of peace was upon him: by 86 his stripes we were healed. All we like sheep have gone astray. Man hath erred from his way. And (the Lord) gave him for our sins: and he opened not his mouth through his suffering. He was led as a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. In his affliction his judgment was taken away." Wherefore after his crucifixion even all his disciples forsook him, and denied him. But afterwards, when he arose from the dead, and appeared to them, and taught them that they should read the prophecies in which all these events were predicted, and when they had seen him going back

¹ Isai. lii. liii. Septuagint.

into heaven, they believed, and received power which was thence sent down upon them from him, and went into all the world, and preached these things, and were themselves called Apostles.

65. Again, these are the words of the prophetic spirit, declaring to us that he, who suffered thus, hath an origin which cannot be expressed, and rules over his enemies : “ Who shall declare his generation ; for his life is taken from the earth. For their transgressions he comes to death. And I will give the wicked for his tomb, and the rich for his death. Because he did no iniquity, neither was guile found in his mouth : and the Lord will cleanse him from his stripes. If he shall be given an offering for sin, your soul shall see a long-lived seed. And the Lord is pleased to take his soul out of travail, to shew him light, and to form him in understanding, to justify the just one who ministereth well to many. And he himself shall bear our sins. For this cause he shall inherit many ; and shall divide the spoil of the strong. Because his soul was given up to death, and he was numbered with the transgressors ; and he bare the sins of many, and he himself was given for their transgressions.”⁶ Hear also in what manner it was predicted that he should ascend up to heaven. For thus it was spoken : “ Lift up the gates of heaven ; be ye opened, that the King of glory may

⁶ Isai. Liii. 8—12.

come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord mighty, even the Lord powerful.”^h Hear also what was spoken by Jeremiahⁱ the prophet, to shew that he should also come again from heaven with glory. His words are these: “Behold how the Son of man cometh upon the clouds of heaven, and the angels with him.”

87 66. Since, then, we have shewn that all things which have already happened were foretold by the prophets, before they came to pass, we must necessarily believe with full faith, that those things, which are in like manner foretold, but are still to happen, will assuredly come to pass. For in the same manner as past events, which were predicted and not known, did come to pass, so events which are yet to happen, even if they be unknown and disbelieved, will come to pass. For the prophets foretold two comings of Christ; the first, which hath already taken place, as of a man without honour and exposed to suffering; and the second, when it is declared he will come with glory from heaven, with his angelic host; when also he shall raise again the bodies of all men who have ever lived, and shall clothe with incorruption the bodies of those who so deserve, but shall send those of the wicked into everlasting fire, there to dwell in endless consciousness with the evil spirits.

^h Ps. xxiv. 7, 8.

ⁱ The passage alluded to is in Dan. vii. 13. See Matt. xxv. 31.

67. Now that these things also are foretold, we will proceed to shew. Thus, then, was it spoken by Ezekiel the prophet: "There shall be brought together joint to joint, and bone to bone: and flesh shall grow upon them."^b And, "Every knee shall bow to the Lord, and every tongue shall confess to him."^c Hear also what is in like manner foretold, to shew in what degree of sensibility and punishment the wicked shall be. The words are these: "Their worm shall not cease, and their fire shall not be quenched."^m And then shall they repent, when it will avail them nothing. Moreover what the people of the Jews shall say and do, when they see him coming in glory, is foretold in these words by the prophet Zechariah:ⁿ "I will command the four winds to bring together my children that are scattered: I will command the north to bring, and the south to oppose not. And then in Jerusalem shall there be great wailing; not the wailing of the mouth or of the lips, but wailing of the heart. And they shall rend not their garments but their consciences. One tribe shall mourn to another: and then shall they look on him whom they pierced, and shall say, Wherefore, Lord, hast thou caused us to wander from thy way? The

^b See Ezek. xxxvii. 6, 7, 8.

^c Isai. xlvi. 23. See Rom. xiv. 11.

^m Isai. lxvi. 24. Mark ix. 44.

ⁿ See Zech. ii. 6. xii. 2, 10. 12. Isai. xi. 12. xliii. 5, 6. lxiii. 17. lxiv. 11. Joel ii. 13.

glory, which our fathers blessed, is turned to our reproach."

68. Although we might mention also many other prophecies, we here pause, persuaded that these are sufficient to convince such as have ears to hear, and hearts to understand ; and nothing doubting that they will perceive, that we are not like those, who devise fables concerning the supposed sons of Jupiter, asserting what we are unable to prove. For how should we believe of a man who was crucified, that he was the first-born of the unbegotten God, and should himself be the judge of all the human race, unless we found testimonies of him foretold, before he came and was made man, and saw also that it so came to pass ? For we have witnessed the desolation of the land of the Jews, and have seen such men, as we ourselves are, men out of every nation, persuaded by the teaching of his apostles, and renouncing their former manner of life, in which they had gone astray ; and that Christians more numerous and more true have been made from the Gentiles, than from the Jews and Samaritans. For all other nations of mankind are called Gentiles, by the prophetic spirit ; but the tribes of Judea and Samaria are denominated Israel and the house of Jacob.

69. And to shew that it was foretold that there should be a greater number of believers from the Gentiles, than from the Jews and Samaritans,

we will produce the prophecies, which are these. “Rejoice, thou barren that bearest not, break out and cry, thou that travailest not: for the children of the barren are more than those of her which hath an husband.”^o For all the nations were barren of the knowledge of the true God, worshiping the works of their own hands: but the Jews and Samaritans, who by the prophets had the word delivered to them from God, and continually looked for the Christ, knew him not when he came, except a certain few, who should be saved; even as the prophetic spirit foretold, by Isaiah. For he said, in their name, “Except the Lord had left us a seed, we should have been as Sodom and Gomorrha.”^p These are related by Moses to have been cities of wicked men, which God overthrew, and burned with fire and brimstone, so that no one who was in them was saved, except one man of another nation, a Chaldean by birth, named Lot, with whom his daughters also were saved. And any who wish, may now see the whole of that country desolate and burnt up, and still remaining unproductive. Moreover to shew that it was foreseen that they of the Gentiles should be more true and more faithful, we will state what was thus spoken 89 by the prophet Isaiah:^q “Israel is uncircumcised in

^o Isai. liv. i. Gal. iv. 27.

^p Isai. i. 9.

^q This quotation is from Jer. ix. 26.

heart, but the Gentiles (are uncircumcised) in the flesh."

70. What, then, hath now been so fully seen may reasonably produce conviction and faith in those who embrace the truth, and are not vain glorious, nor governed by their passions. Whereas they who teach the fables which have been invented by the poets, offer no proof to the young men who learn them: and we have shewn that such tales are spoken, by the influence of evil demons, to deceive the human race, and lead them astray. For having heard that it was declared by the prophets that Christ should come, and that wicked men should be punished by fire, they put forward many, whom we have already mentioned,¹ to be called the sons of Jupiter; supposing that thus they might persuade men to consider what was related respecting Christ to be merely fabulous prodigies, of the same nature with those related by the poets. And these inventions were circulated both among the Greeks and all other nations, where they understood the prophets to declare that the belief in Christ should most prevail. We shall show, however, that when they thus heard what was spoken by the prophets, they did not perfectly understand it, but erroneously imitated what was really performed by Christ, in whom we believe.

¹ c. 29.

71. Moses, then, the prophet, was, as we have before stated,¹ more ancient than all other writers; and he delivered this prophecy, which hath been already quoted:² "A prince shall not fail from Judah, nor a ruler from between his feet," until He shall come for whom it is reserved: and He shall be the expectation of the Gentiles, binding his colt to a vine, washing his garment in the blood of the grape."³ The demons then, hearing these prophetic words, asserted that Bacchus was born the son of Jupiter; they ascribed to him also the invention of the vine, and in the celebration of his mysteries led an ass⁴ in procession, and taught that Bacchus was torn in pieces, and taken up into heaven. And since, in the prophecy of Moses, it was not plainly expressed, whether he who should come was to be the Son of God, (or of man), and whether, thus riding upon a colt, he should remain upon earth, or ascend into heaven; since also the word, colt, might imply the foal either of an ass or of a horse, and they doubted whether he who was predicted should lead an ass's colt, or that of a horse, as

¹ c. 57.² c. 40.

³ ἐκ τῶν μηρῶν, from his thighs. See the note (g) on c. 40. p. 222.

⁴ Gen. xl ix. 10.

⁵ οἶκος (ῶνος) ἐν ταῖς μυστηρίαις αὐτοῦ ἀκαγράφουσι: (ἀκαφέ-ρουσι). Compare Dial. with Trypho, p. 295. where the same argument is used, and the same instances adduced. Pliny, Hist. Nat. xxiv. 1. says that the ass was sacred to Bacchus.

the sign of his coming, and whether he should be the Son of God or of man, they said that Bellerophon also, a man born of a human parent, went up to heaven^c upon the horse Pegasus.

90 When also they heard that it was said by another prophet, Isaiah, that Christ should be born of a virgin, and should ascend to heaven by himself, they devised the story of Perseus.^d Knowing, again, that it was said, as hath been already shewn by reference to the prophets, "He shall be strong as a giant to run a race,"^a they told of Hercules, who was strong, and wandered over the whole earth. And when again they learned that it was prophesied, that Christ should heal all manner of disease, and raise the dead, they introduced Esculapius.^b

72. But in no instance, nor in the history of any of those who were called the sons of Jupiter, did they imitate his crucifixion: for since all that was spoken respecting this was figuratively expressed, as we have shewn, it was unintelligible to them. Now the cross, as the prophet hath predicted, is the greatest sign of his might and dominion; as is plain from what falls under our own observation. For observe how impossible it is that any thing in the world should be regulated, or any mutual intercourse carried on, without employing this figure. The sea cannot be navigated, unless this symbol, as the mast and yard-arm of the sail,

^a See c. 29.

^b Ps. xix. 5.

^c Compare c. 30.

remains firm in the ship. Without an instrument in this form, the land cannot be ploughed: neither can they who dig exercise their labour, nor handicraft-men pursue their occupations, without implements which are fashioned in like manner. The human figure also differs from those of irrational animals in no respect but this, that it is erect, and hath the hands extended: and in the countenance also hath the nose reaching downward from the forehead, by which we are able to breathe. This again shews no figure but that of the cross. It is spoken also by the prophet, “The breath before our nostrils is Christ the Lord.”^c The signs also in use among yourselves shew the force of the same figure,^d [as in the instance of stand-

^c Lament. iv. 20. πνεῦμα πρὸ προσώπου ἡμῶν Χριστὸς Κύριος. The Septuagint version now has πνεῦμα προσώπου, the breath of our nostrils. And the words are so quoted by Tertullian, Adversus Marcion: iii. 6. Advers. Praxeum. c. 14. Ireneus iii. 11. p. 315. In the Apostolical Constitutions, v. 20. the words are quoted in the same manner as by Justin. Tertullian argues from this passage, that it was Christ, who spake by the prophets, and appeared at various times, before his coming in the flesh. The mystical senses, which Justin and others of the Fathers have applied to this passage, depend upon the Greek version, in which is found Χριστὸς Κύριος, and not Χριστὸς Κυρίου, “the Anointed of the Lord;” by which term probably Zedekiah was meant.

^d Καὶ τὰ παρ' ὑμῖν δὲ σύμβολα τὴν τοῦ σχῆματος τούτου δύναμιν δηλοῖ·..... λλωμεν καὶ τῶν τροπαιῶν.

Some words are here lost. Among the different conjectures, that of Thirlby seems as probable as any:—δηλοῖ· λέγω δὲ τὰ τῶν καλουμένων παρ' ὑμῖν οὐιξίλλων· καὶ τῶν τροπαιῶν.

Notions of the same fanciful kind, respecting the universal

ards] and trophies, by which your progress is every where marked. In all these, ye shew the true sign of authority and power, although ye do it ignorantly. Moreover by the use of the same figure, ye set up the figures of your deceased emperors, and denominate them gods, by the accompanying inscriptions. Having then thus exhorted you, to the utmost of our power, both by an appeal to your reason, and to these sensible signs, we know that we shall henceforth be blameless, even if ye believe not. For we have done our duty, and brought our work to an end.

73. It was not sufficient, however, for the evil demons to declare, before the coming of Christ, that those sons, who have been spoken of, were born to Jupiter: but afterwards, when Christ had appeared and dwelt with men, and they learned in what manner he was predicted by the prophets, and knew that men of all nations believed on him and expected him [to come again to judgment], they again raised up others, as we have before shewn, as Simon and Menander from Samaria:^e who by the display of magical arts deceived, and continue to deceive, many. For Simon being with you, as we have already said, in the imperial city of Rome, under Claudius Cæsar, did

use of the figure of the cross, are found in Minucius Felix, Octavius, c. 29. and in Justin's Dialogue, p. 317, 318. 332. He finds it exemplified, among other instances, in the horn of the unicorn.

* See c. 34.

so astonish the sacred senate and the people of Rome, that he was considered to be a god, and honoured with a statue, even as the other gods who are worshipped among you. Wherefore we request that the sacred senate and your people would join with you in considering this our address; that if there be any one who hath been seduced by his doctrine, he may learn the truth, and be able to avoid error: and, if it please you, destroy the statue.

74. For the evil demons can never persuade men that the wicked shall not be punished in fire; even as they were unable to cause Christ to be unknown, when he did come; but this only: they can cause those men who oppose right reason by their lives, and have been brought up in depraved habits of sensuality, and are puffed up with vain glory, to destroy and hate us. Yet we not only bear no malice against these men, but, as is hereby manifest, pity them and endeavour to persuade them to repentance. For we fear not death, since it is acknowledged that at all events we must die: and there is nothing new,¹ but a continual repetition of the same things in this life. And if they who partake of these delights are satiated with them in one year, they must surely hearken to our instruction, that they may live for ever, free from suffering and fear. But if they believe

¹ Eccles. i. 9, 10.

that there will be nothing after death, and are of opinion that they who die pass into a state of insensibility, then they act as our benefactors, in liberating us from sufferings and privations, while
92 they yet shew themselves to be influenced by hatred and enmity and vain-glory: for their object in thus removing us is not to relieve us from distress, but by our death to deprive us of life and all its pleasures.

75. The evil demons also, as we have already shewn, raised up Marcion of Pontus, who even now continues to teach men to deny God the Creator of all things in heaven and earth, and Christ his Son, who was foretold by the prophets: and asserts that there is some other God, besides the Maker of all things, and also another Son. And many, believing his pretensions to be the only one acquainted with the truth, deride us, although they can produce no proof of what they assert, but contrary to all reason are hurried away, as lambs are by wolves, and become a prey to wicked doctrines and to demons. For the demons, which we have spoken of, strive to do nothing else but to lead men away from God the Creator and Christ his first-begotten Son. Wherefore they have fixed and continue to fix down to earthly things and such as are made with hands, those men who cannot raise themselves from the earth: but as for those who turn to the contemplation of heavenly

things, they mislead them, and cast them into ungodly living, unless they have a wise judgment, and lead a life of purity free from human passions.

76. Further, that you may be convinced that when Plato asserted, that God made the world by a change wrought in matter previously unformed, he was indebted to our teachers, that is to the word of God delivered by the prophets, hear the very words of Moses, whom we have before mentioned as the first prophet, and more ancient than any writers among the Greeks. The prophetic spirit, declaring by him in what manner, and from what materials, God in the beginning made the world, spake thus: ^g “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was invisible and unformed; and darkness was upon the face of the deep: and the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light; and it was so.” ^h Wherefore Plato and they who agree with him, as well as we ourselves, have all learned that the whole world was made by the word of God, from what was related and made known by Moses; as ye also may be convinced. Moreover we know that what is called Erebus by the poets, was before spoken of by Moses.ⁱ

77. Moreover, when Plato discussing the physical nature of the Son of God, saith in his

^g Gen. i. 1—3.

^h καὶ ἐγένετο οὐτος. (φῶς)

ⁱ בָּרְךָ Gen. i. 5.

Timœus,^k “He impressed him upon the universe in the form of a cross,” he here also borrowed his assertion from Moses. For in the writings of Moses it is recorded, that, at the time when the
 93 Israelites came out of Egypt, and were in the desert, venomous creatures, vipers and asps, and all kinds of serpents, met them, and destroyed the people: and that Moses by the inspiration and power which were given him from God, took brass, and made it into the form of a cross, and placed this upon the holy Tabernacle, and said to the people, “If ye look upon this figure, and believe, ye shall be saved by it.” He related also, that as soon as this was done, the serpents perished and the people escaped death. Plato reading this relation, and not fully comprehending it, nor aware that it was a type of the cross, but conceiving only a division in that form,^l said that the virtue which was next to the supreme God was impressed upon the universe in the form of a cross. And he spoke also of that third quality, since, as we have already said,^m he read what Moses related of the Spirit of God being carried over the waters. For he assigns

^k The passage, to which Justin alludes, relates to the creation of the soul of the universe. Ταύτην οὖν τὴν ξύστασιν πᾶσαν, διπλῆν κατὰ μῆκος σχίσας, μέσην πρὸς μέσην ἐκατέραν ἀλλήλαις, οἷον Χ προσβαλῶν, κατέκυμψεν εἰς κύκλου. Timœus, Tom. iii. p. 36. b.

^l χίασμα, the form of the letter X.

^m c. 76.

the second place to the Word of God, whom he declares to have been impressed upon the universe in the form of a cross, and the third, to the Spirit, which is said to have been borne over the water, when he saith, “ And what is in the third place about the third.”^a Hear also in what manner the prophetic spirit declared by Moses that there should be a destruction of all things by fire. For he spake thus; “ There shall go down an ever-living fire, and shall consume even unto the abyss beneath.”

78. It is not therefore that we hold the same opinions with others, but that all others speak in imitation of ours. For with us information may be obtained upon these points, from those who have not received even the rudiments of learning, who, although unlearned and speaking a strange language,^b had wisdom and faith in their hearts:

^a Ωδε γὰρ ἔχει περὶ τὸν πάντων βασιλέα πάντ' ἐστί, καὶ ἑκείνου ἔπεικα πάντα· καὶ ἔκεινο αἰτιος διάπλου τῶν καλῶν δεύτερον δὲ πέρι, τὰ δεύτερα, καὶ τρίτον πέρι, τὰ τρίτα. Plato Epist. 2. Tom. iii. p. 312. e.

For thus it is: around the King of the universe are all things, and all things for him; and he is the cause of every good thing: and about the second are those which are in the second place; and about the third those which are in the third place.

^b ἴδιωτῶν μὲν καὶ βαρβάρων τὸ φθέγμα. Ireneus iii. 4. expresses the same sentiments: “ Hanc fidem qui sine literis crederunt, quantum ad sermonem nostrum, barbari sunt, quantum autem ad sententiam et consuetudinem, et conversationem, propter fidem perquam sapientissimi sunt, et placent Deo, conversantes in omni justitiae et castitate et sapientiae.”

though some of them were lame and blind, so as to make it evident that these things were not done by human wisdom, but spoken by the power of God.

79. We will state also in what manner we are created anew by Christ, and have dedicated ourselves to God : that we may not, by omitting this, appear to dissemble any thing in our explanation. As many as are persuaded and believe that the things which we teach and declare are true, and promise that they are determined to live accordingly, are taught to pray, and to beseech God with fasting, to grant them remission of their past sins, while we also pray and fast with them. We then lead them to a place where there is water, and there they are regenerated in the same manner as we also were : for they are then washed in that water, in the name
94 of God the Father and Lord of the universe, and of our Saviour Jesus Christ, and of the Holy Spirit. For Christ said, “ Except ye be born again, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven : ”^p and that it is impossible, that those who are once born should again enter into their mothers’ wombs is evident to all. Moreover it is declared by the prophet Isaiah, as we have before written, in what manner they who have sinned and repent may escape (the punishment of) their sins. For thus it is said ; “ Wash you, make you clean, put away the evil from your

^p John iii. 3, 5.

souls; learn to do well; do justice to the fatherless, and avenge the widow: and come and let us reason together, saith the Lord. Even if your sins should be as scarlet I will make them as white as wool: and if they should be as crimson I will make them white as snow. But if ye will not hearken unto me the sword shall devour you: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken these things."⁴

80. The apostles have also taught us for what reason this new birth is necessary. Since at our first birth, we were born without our knowledge or consent, by the ordinary natural means, and were brought up in bad habits and evil instructions,⁵ in order that we may no longer remain the children of necessity or of ignorance, but may become the children of choice and judgment, and may obtain in the water remission of the sins which we have before committed, the name of God the Father and Lord of the universe is pronounced over him who is willing to be born again, and hath repented of his sins; he who leads him to be washed in the laver of baptism, saying this only over him:⁶ for no one can give a name to the ineffable God; and if any

⁴ Isai. i. 16—20.

⁵ ἀνατροφαὶς.

⁶ The translation follows the reading proposed by Thirlby, αὐτὸ τοῦτο μόνον ἐπλέγοντος τοῦ τὸν λουσόμενον ὑγοντος ἐπὶ τὸ λουτρόν. They pronounced over the new convert the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, according to the apostolical precept, Matt. xxviii. 19. but did not presume to give any other name to God, whose name is ineffable.

See note on c. 10.

man should dare to assert that there is such a name, he is afflicted with utter madness. And this washing is called illumination,^t since the minds of those who are thus instructed are enlightened. And he who is so enlightened is baptized also in the name of Jesus Christ, who was crucified under Pontius Pilate, and in the name of the Holy Spirit, who by the prophets foretold all things concerning Jesus.^u

81. The demons also, who heard that this washing of baptism was predicted by the prophet, caused that those who entered into their holy places, and were about to approach them, to offer libations and the fat of victims, should sprinkle 95 themselves. Moreover, they cause them to wash themselves, as they depart (from the sacrifice), before they enter into the temples where their images are placed. Again, the demons having learned what happened to Moses, the prophet of whom we have spoken, and wishing to imitate him, introduced the practice, that those who enter into their temples, and worship the gods there, should be exhorted by the priests to loose their shoes from off their feet. For at the time when Moses was com-

^t φωτισμός. Justin in Dial. p. 258. A. uses the same language, φωτιζόμενοι διὰ τοῦ ὄνυματος τὸν Χριστοῦ τούτον. Terms of a like import were constantly applied to baptism. Instances are given by Suicer, Thesaurus, on the word φωτισμός: and Bingham, Eccles. Ant. xi. 1, 4.

^u Justin resumes this subject in c. 85.

manded to go down to Egypt, and lead out the people of the Israelites who were there, as he was feeding the flock of his mother's brother,^x in the land of Arabia, Christ, whom we worship, spake with him in the appearance of fire out of a bush, and said, "Put off thy shoes, and come and hear."^y And he put off his shoes, and went; and heard that he must go down to Egypt, and lead out the people of the Israelites who were there; and received great power from Christ who spake with him in the appearance of fire. So he went down, and led out the people, and performed great and wonderful miracles; which, if ye wish to hear them, ye may learn perfectly from his writings.

82. Now all the Jews to this day, teach that God, who cannot be named, spake to Moses.^z Whence the prophetic spirit reproached them by Isaiah the aforementioned prophet, as we have already declared, thus saying, "The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib: but Israel doth not know me; and the people doth not consider me." And in like manner Jesus Christ himself also said, upbraiding the Jews for that they

^x Exod. iii. 1. Jethro was the father in law of Moses. Justin was perhaps led into the error by thinking of Jacob feeding the flock of Laban, his mother's brother. Gen. xxix. 10. xxx. 29.

^y Exod. iii. 5.

^z Justin treats on this subject, in his Dialogue with Trypho, p. 282.

knew not what the Father is, and what the Son is : “ No one knoweth the Father, but the Son; neither knoweth any one the Son, but the Father, and they to whomsoever the Son shall reveal it.”^a And the Word of God is his Son, as we have before said. He is called also the Angel,^b (who declares) and the Apostle,^c (who is sent;) since he declares whatever is necessary to be known, and is sent to publish whatever is entrusted to him : as our Lord himself said, “ He that heareth me, heareth him that sent me.”^d This also will plainly appear from the writings of Moses. For in them it is thus said: “ And the Angel of the Lord spake unto Moses in a flame of fire out of the bush, and said, I am he who is; the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob, the God of thy fathers. Go down to Egypt, and lead out my people.”^e Ye may learn what follows from the writings themselves; since it is impossible to comprise every thing in the present address.

96 83. Now these words have been spoken, to shew that the Son of God, and Apostle, is Jesus Christ, who before was the Word, and appeared sometimes in the form of fire, and sometimes in the image of incorporeal beings, but hath

^a Matt. xi. 27. This passage is quoted in the same manner in the next chapter, 83.

^b Exod. iii. 2.

^c Heb. iii. 1, 2.

^d Matt. x. 40.

^e Exod. iii. 2, 14. 15.

now by the will of God, and for the sake of mankind, been made man; and endured whatsoever the demons caused to be inflicted upon him by the senseless Jews: who, when they find it expressly declared in the writings of Moses, “And the Angel of God spake to Moses in a flame of fire in a bush, and said, I am he who is; the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob,”^f say that it was the Father and Creator of all things who so spake. Whence also the prophetic spirit reproached them saying, “But Israel doth not know me, and the people doth not consider me.”^g And again Jesus, while he was with them, said, as we have already shewn, “No one knoweth the Father but the Son: neither knoweth any one the Son, but the Father, and they to whomsoever the Son shall reveal it.”^h The Jews, therefore, who always thought that it was the Father of all things who spake to Moses, whereas he who spake to him was the Son of God, who is also called the Angel and the Apostle, are justly upbraided both by the prophetic spirit, and by Christ himself, as knowing neither the Father nor the Son. For they who say that the Son is the Father, are proved not to know the Father, nor that the Father of all things hath a Son, who, being the

^f Exod. iii. 2, 14. 15.

^g Isai. i. 3.

^h Matt. xi. 27.

first-begotten Word of God, is also God. He also formerly appeared to Moses and the prophets in the form of fire, and of an incorporeal image: but now in the time of your empire, as we have already said, was made man, and born of a virgin, according to the will of the Father, for the salvation of those who believe in him. He permitted himself also to be set at naught, and to suffer, that by dying and rising again he might conquer death. Moreover when he spake out of the bush to Moses, saying, "I am he who is; the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, and the God of thy fathers," he intimated that they who were dead, did still exist and were men of Christ himself. For they were the first of all men who diligently sought after God, Abraham being the father of Isaac, and Isaac of Jacob, as Moses also hath recorded.

84. Ye may also, from what hath been already said, perceive, that it was in imitation of that which was written by Moses, that the demons caused to be placed by fountains of water, the statue of her who is called Proserpine, and said to be the daughter of Jupiter. For Moses said, in the words which have been already adduced,¹ "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth: and the earth was invisible and unformed: and the Spirit of God moved upon

¹ Sect. 76. Gen. i. 1, 2.

the face of the waters." They therefore said, that Proserpine was the daughter of Jupiter, in imitation of the spirit of God, which was said to have moved over the water. By a similar perversion, they spake of Minerva as being the daughter of Jupiter, but not by natural generation. But having learned that God after deliberation made the world by the Word,^{*} they spake of Minerva as the first Intelligence. Now this we consider most absurd, to carry about the image of Intelligence in a female form. In like manner, the actions of the others, who are called sons of Jupiter, prove what they really are.

85. We, then, after having so washed him who hath expressed his conviction and professes the faith, lead him to those who are called brethren, where they are gathered together, to make common prayers with great earnestness, both for themselves and for him who is now enlightened, and for all others in all places, that having learned the truth, we may be deemed worthy to be found men of godly conversation in our lives, and to keep the commandments, that so we may attain to eternal salvation. When we have finished our prayers, we salute one another with a kiss. After which, there is brought, to that one of the brethren who presides, bread and a cup of wine mixed with

* See note on c. 34.

water.¹ And he having received them gives praise and glory to the Father of all things, through the name of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and gives thanks in many words for that God hath vouchsafed

¹ Irenæus, in like manner, speaks of the cup of the Eucharist, as consisting of wine mixed with water. He calls it *κεκράμενον ποτήριον*, (v. 2.) and speaks of our Saviour, who in his last supper declared the mixture of the cup to be his own blood: (*temperamentum calicis suum sanguinem declaravit*): (iv. 57.) and, in describing the promise of our Lord that he would drink the fruit of the vine new with his disciples in his Father's kingdom, (Matt. xxvi. 29.) he uses the expression, "Hæc enim et Dominus docuit, *mixtionem calicis novam* in regno cum discipulis habiturum se pollicitus." (v. 36.)

Some early heretics, as part of the sect of the Ebionites and of the followers of Tatian, used water only in the administration of the Eucharist; whence they are opposed by Epiphanius (Hær. xlvi. Encrat. 4. 16.) who calls them Encratitæ; by Augustin (De Hæres. 64.) under the appellation of Aquarii; and by Theodoret, (De Fab. hæret. i. 20.) who styles them Encratitæ and Hydroparastatæ. Clemens Alexandrinus (Stromat. i. p. 375. Pædagog. ii. 2. p. 177. Potter) mentions the same error. An Epistle of Cyprian to Cæcilius (Ep. 63. p. 148. Fell) is directed against this practice. His argument is intended to prove, that wine is essential to the sacrament, and supposes that the cup, of which our Lord partook, contained water as well as wine. He imagines that the union of water with the wine indicated a mystical union between the people and Christ, and that the absence of either substance dissolves this union. It will be observed, that the object of Cyprian in this Epistle, is to shew, not that the wine must be mixed with water, but that water alone did not represent sacramentally the blood of Christ.

The third council of Carthage (c. 24.) decreed that in the Eucharist the wine should be mixed with water. And many other early writers maintain the same opinion.

In the first Common Prayer Book of the Church of England, published by authority of Edward the Sixth, the Minister
was

to them these things. And when he hath finished his praises and thanksgiving, all the people who are present express their assent, saying, Amen, which in the Hebrew tongue, implies, So be it. The President having given thanks, and the people having expressed their assent, those whom we call deacons give to each of those who are present a portion of the bread which hath been blessed, and of the wine mixed with water; and carry some away for those who are absent.

86. And this food is called by us the Eucharist (or Thanksgiving): of which no one may partake unless he believes that what we teach is true,

was directed by the rubric, when he put the wine into the chalice, "to put thereto a little pure and clean water." The same custom existed in the Anglo-Saxon Church. See Palmer's Antiquity of the English Ritual, c. iv. sect. 9.

Although, however, this custom is primitive and perhaps apostolical, and although it is probable that the cup which our Saviour consecrated at the last supper did contain water as well as wine, according to the general practice of the Jews, (Maimonides Lib. de Solennitate Pasch. c. 7.) yet it has been long decided by theologians that the mixture of water is not essential to the sacrament. Cardinal Bona refers to Bernard, as speaking of those who considered water to be essential, but, he says, "the judgment of theologians is certain, that the consecration of the elements is valid, even if water be omitted, although he who omits it is guilty of a grievous offence." (Bona, Rer. Lit. Lib. ii. c. 9. 3.)

In our present rubric, although the mixture of water with wine is not enjoined, it is not prohibited.

This question is treated by Bingham, Eccl. Ant. xv. 2. 7.; Wheatley on the Common Prayer, c. vi. sect. 10. 5.; Palmer's Antiquity of the English Ritual, c. iv. sect. 9., and in a Dissertation by Vossius, Thes. Theolog. p. 494.

98 and is washed in the laver, which is appointed for the forgiveness of sins and unto regeneration, and lives in such a manner as Christ commanded. For we receive not these elements as common bread or common drink. But even as Jesus Christ our Saviour, being made flesh by the Word of God,^m had both flesh and blood for our salvation, even so we are taught, that the food which is blessed by the prayer of the word which came from him, by the conversion of which (into our bodily substance) our blood and flesh are nourished, is the flesh and blood of that Jesus who was made flesh. For the Apostles, in the Memoirs composed by them, which are called Gospels, have related that Jesus thus commanded them;ⁿ that having taken bread, and given thanks, he said, "Do this in remembrance of me: this is my body:" and that in like manner having taken the cup, and given thanks, he said, "This is my blood;" and that he distributed them to these alone. And this too the evil demons have in imitation commanded to be done in the mysteries of Mithra. For ye either know or may learn, that bread and a cup of water are placed in the rites appointed for the initiated, with certain prayers. After these solemnities are finished, we afterwards continually remind one another of them.

^m See note on c. 43. and Bp. Kaye's Account of Justin Martyr, ch. iv. p. 86. note 6.

ⁿ Matt. xxvi. 26. Mark xiv. 22. Luke xxii. 19.

And such of us as have possessions assist all those who are in want; and we all associate with one another.

87. And over all our offerings, we bless the Creator of all things, through his Son Jesus Christ, and through the Holy Spirit. And, on the day which is called Sunday, there is an assembly in one place of all who dwell either in towns or in the country; and the Memoirs of the Apostles or the writings of the prophets are read, as long as the time permits. Then, when the reader hath ceased, the President delivers a discourse, in which he reminds and exhorts them to the imitation of all these good things. We then all stand up together, and put forth prayers. Then, as we have already said, when we cease from prayer,^o bread is brought, and wine, and water: and the President in like manner offers up prayers and praises with his utmost power: and the people express their assent by saying, Amen. The consecrated elements are then distributed and received by every one; and a portion is sent by the deacons to those who are absent.

88. Each of those also, who have abundance 99 and are willing, according to his choice, gives what he thinks fit: and what is collected is deposited

^o The previous description was that of the first Communion after baptism: Justin here relates the ordinary celebration of the Eucharist.

with the President, who succours the fatherless and the widows, and those who are in necessity from disease or any other cause; those also who are in bonds, and the strangers who are sojourning among us; and in a word takes care of all who are in need.^p

89. We all of us assemble together on Sunday, because it is the first day in which God changed darkness and matter, and made the world. On the same day also Jesus Christ our Saviour rose from the dead. For he was crucified the day before that of Saturn: and on the day after that of Saturn, which is the day of the Sun, he appeared to his apostles and disciples, and taught them what we now submit to your consideration.

90. If now what we have advanced appears to be reasonable and true, honour it accordingly; and if it appears folly, despise it as foolish, but pass not sentence of death against those who have done no evil, as if they were enemies. For we have already forewarned you, that ye shall not escape the future judgment of God, if ye continue in unrighteousness. And we shall exclaim, What God wills, let that come to pass. Although we might demand of

^p Bp. Kaye, in his Account of Justin Martyr, p. 91. notices the alterations which had taken place in the mode of celebrating the communion between the time of the Apostles and that of Justin. The chief of these was the separation of the time of partaking of the Eucharist from that of their ordinary meal.

you, from the epistle of the most great and illustrious Cæsar Adrian, your father, that which we require, that ye should command right judgment to be made, we have yet preferred that this should not take place because it was so ordained by Adrian, but have made this address and explanation to you, knowing that we demand what is just. And we have subjoined also a copy of the letter of Adrian, that in this too ye may perceive that we speak the truth. The copy is as follows:

THE EPISTLE OF ADRIAN RESPECTING THE
CHRISTIANS.

To MINUCIUS FUNDANUS.

WE have received the letter written to me by the most renowned Serenius Granianus whom you succeeded. It seems then to me that the matter must not be left without enquiry; lest those men should be troubled, and a means of evil doing should be open to false accusers. If then the people in the provinces are able to advance so far in their accusations against the Christians, as to answer before the seat of judgment, let them have recourse to these means alone, and not act by vague accusations or mere clamour. For it is far better, if any one wishes to bring an accusation, that you should examine it. If therefore any one accuses them, and proves that they have done any thing against the laws, dispose of the matter

according to the severity of the offence. But I require you, if any man bring such a charge falsely, deal with him according to his deserts, and take care that you punish him.

THE EPISTLE OF THE EMPEROR ANTONINUS PIUS
TO THE COMMON ASSEMBLY OF ASIA.*

The Emperor Cæsar, Titus Ælius Adrianus Antoninus Augustus Pius, Pontifex Maximus, fifteenth time Tribune, thrice Consul, Father of his Country, to the Common Assembly of Asia, sends greeting.

I AM well assured, that the gods themselves will take heed that men of this kind shall not escape: for it is much more their interest to punish, if they can, those who refuse to worship them. Whereas ye trouble them, and accuse the opinions which they hold, as if they were Atheists: and bring many other charges, of which we are able to discover no proof. Nay, it would be in their estimation a great advantage to die for that of which they are accused: and they conquer you, by throwing away their own lives, rather than comply with what ye require them to do.

* Eusebius, H. E. iv. 13, gives this Epistle, as having been written by Marcus Aurelius Antoninus, although in c. 12. he appears to ascribe it to Antoninus Pius. Valesius and Scaliger think that it was written by Marcus Aurelius. Halloix, in his life of Justin, c. 5. and Cave, in his life of Justin, c. 10. agree in ascribing the letter to Antoninus Pius.

With respect to earthquakes, which either have happened or do happen, it is not fitting that ye should regard them with despondency, whatever they may be, comparing your own conduct with theirs, and observing how much more confidence they have towards God, than ye. Ye, in fact, at such periods, appear to forget the gods, and neglect your sacred rites. And ye know not the worship which belongs to God ; whence ye envy those who do worship him, and persecute them even unto death. Respecting such men, certain others of the rulers of provinces wrote to my Father of blessed memory ; to whom also he wrote in reply, that they should in no wise trouble men of that kind, unless they were shewn to be making any attempt against the dominion of the Romans. Many too have given information respecting such men to me also, to whom I answered, in conformity with my father's opinion. If then any one shall bring any charge against one of these men, simply as such, let him who is so accused be released, even if he should be proved to be one of this kind of men : and let the accuser himself be subject to punishment.



THE APOLOGY

OF

QUINTUS SEPTIMIUS FLORENS
TERTULLIANUS.

CHAPTER I.

If ye, rulers^{*} of the Roman Empire, sitting judicially upon your open and lofty seat of judgment, and occupying, as it were, the most elevated position in the state, are yet unable openly to enquire, and closely to examine, what is the real truth, in questions respecting the Christian

* Antistites. In other parts of the Apology, Tertullian calls the same persons Praesides; as in c. 2, 9. 50. They were the governors of Proconsular Africa. Eusebius, indeed, H. E. v. 5. says that this Apology was addressed to the Roman Senate: but this is contradicted by internal evidence. Had it been written at Rome, or addressed to Romans, Tertullian would not have used such expressions as *Hoc imperium, cuius ministri estis*: c. 2. *Ecce in illâ religiosissimâ urbe Æneadum*: c. 9. or, *Ipsos Quirites, ipsam vernaculam septem collium plebem, convenio.* c. 35. The manner in which he contrasts the fear of God with that of the Proconsul, at the conclusion of c. 45. implies that the Apology was written in some province which was under a Proconsul.

It is most probable, that this Apology was both written and presented at Carthage.

religion,—if in this case alone your authority in matters of justice is either afraid or ashamed to enquire,—or if, as hath recently occurred,^b the great severity with which ye have persecuted this sect in your own families prevents your listening to an impartial defence,—the truth may still be permitted to reach your ears by the secret means of a written apology. Truth demands no favour in her cause; for she wonders not at her own condition. She knows that she is a sojourner upon earth; that she must find enemies among strangers; but that her origin, her home, her hopes, her honours, her dignities are placed in heaven. She hath but one desire, not to be condemned unknown. What injury can the authority of the laws suffer, which are absolute in their own realm, if the truth be heard?^c Nay, their power will be more manifested, if they even condemn her, after she is heard? But if they condemn her unheard, in addition to the odium attached

^b One of those, who is here addressed, had probably exercised some act of severity, towards some of his own family, in consequence of their professing the Christian religion.

^c The laws can never suffer any diminution of their authority, by permitting those who are accused to answer for themselves. The very demand for an audience is an acknowledgement of their power. Nay, if absolute authority must prevail, arbitrary power would appear more conspicuously, if it condemned, after having heard.

An (at) hoc magis gloriabitur potestas earum, quo etiam auditam damnabunt veritatem.

to injustice, they will deservedly incur the suspicion, that they wilfully refused to hear, knowing that, if they had heard, they could not have condemned her.

This, therefore, is the first reason which we allege, to prove how unjust is the hatred borne towards the name of Christian ; an injustice, which is at once aggravated and proved to exist, by the very cause, which at first appears to excuse it, namely, ignorance.^a For what can be more unjust than that men should hate that of which they are ignorant, even if the subject should deserve their hatred ? For then only can any thing be said to deserve such treatment, when the fact is clearly ascertained. And where there is no knowledge of what are the true merits of the case, upon what grounds can the justice of the hatred be defended, when that justice must be proved, not from the fact that hatred exists, but from previous knowledge of the grounds on which it rests ? Since, therefore, their only reason for hatred is that they are ignorant what it is which they hate, why may not the subject be really of such a nature as not to deserve hatred ? Hence we establish the unreasonableness of our adversaries in each case, by proving that they are in ignorance, while they hate, and that, while they are thus in ignorance, their hatred is unjust.

^a Tertullian uses the same argument, in nearly the same words, *Ad Nationes*, i. c. i.

A proof of this ignorance, which, while it excuses their injustice, doth yet condemn it, is this, that all who once were enemies, through ignorance, as soon as they have ceased to be ignorant, cease also to hate. They are changed from what they were, and become Christians, as soon as they learn what that religion really is ;^c they begin to hate what they were, and to profess the opinions which they hated, and are become as numerous as we are shewn to be. Our enemies exclaim that the whole state is overrun with us :^f they lament it as a great calamity, that Christians are found in the country, in cities, in the islands ; that persons of each sex, and of all ages, and station, and dignity, come over to that name. Yet not even this fact is sufficient to rouse their minds to imagine that there is some latent good in Christianity. They permit themselves not to entertain any more reasonable suspicion, nor to investigate the truth more clearly. In this instance alone the curiosity natural to man is not excited ; they please themselves in ignorance of that, which others are delighted to have known. Anacharsis^e permitted none but those skilled in

^c Utique de comperto. He contrasts the docility of a conscientious convert with the determined ignorance of their persecutors, who continued to oppose a religion of which they were ignorant.

^f Compare c. 37. and Ad Nationes, i. c. i.

^e Plutarch, in his life of Solon, relates that Anacharsis witnessing judicial proceedings at Athens, expressed his surprise.

the science, to judge of music: with how much greater justice might he have accused these men of folly, who, in their utter ignorance, presume to form a judgment respecting those, who have diligently enquired and learned the truth. They prefer ignorance of Christianity, because they already hate it: yet, by thus voluntarily encouraging ignorance, they tacitly confess their conviction that, if they did know what it was, they would be unable to hate it: since, if no just ground of hatred should be discovered, they would certainly act a wiser part in dismissing an unjust hatred; but if, on the other hand, sufficient cause for hatred should appear, the hostility, which now exists, would not only be continued, but acquire fresh reason and encouragement, even on the authority of justice itself.

But, it is said, the numbers, who are persuaded to embrace Christianity, afford no proof that the religion is good in itself; for how many are prone to evil? how many desert the paths of truth for error? Doubtless: yet not even they, who are led away by that which is evil in itself, dare to defend it, as good. Nature herself hath spread over every thing which is evil, either fear or shame. Evil

prise, that in so civilized a state wise men should plead causes, and fools determine them. Diogenes Laertius, in his life of Anacharsis, has preserved a saying of the philosopher, which more closely resembles Tertullian's allusion: *θαυμάζειν δὲ ἐφη πῶς παρὰ τοῖς "Ελλησιν αἰγανίζονται μὲν οἱ τεχνίται, κρίνουσι δὲ οἱ μὴ τεχνίται.*

doers are anxious for concealment; avoid publicity; when detected, tremble; when accused, deny; even under torture, do not readily, nor always, confess: at all events, when they are condemned, they grieve; they reflect upon themselves with remorse; they attribute the sins, which arise from an evil heart, either to fate, or to the stars: for they would not have that, which they acknowledge to be evil, to belong to themselves. But what similarity is there between this and the conduct of a Christian? No one is ashamed, no one is sorry, except that he was not a Christian long before. If he is pointed out, he glories in the charge: if accused, he makes no defence; if questioned, he confesses, even of his own accord; if condemned, he returns thanks. What kind of evil, then, is this, which hath none of the natural attributes of evil, fear, shame, subterfuge, repentance, sorrow? What kind of evil is this, in which the culprit delights; the accusation of which is the completion of his wishes; and its punishment, his happiness? You cannot call this madness, since you are proved to be entirely ignorant of the real cause.

CHAPTER II.

IF, however, it be ascertained that we are really most guilty, why are we treated differently from other criminals, our fellows? since similar offences ought to receive the same treatment. When others are accused of the offences, which are laid to our charge, they are permitted freely to speak, and to employ an advocate to prove their innocence: they have the privilege of replying, and objecting; since it is illegal that any should be condemned, entirely undefended or unheard. Christians alone are not permitted to advance any thing which may repel the charge, or defend the truth, or justify the judge. That alone is required, which the public hatred renders necessary, a confession of the name of Christian, not any enquiry into the offence. Whereas when ye examine any other accused person, ye are not induced to pronounce sentence, as soon as he hath confessed himself guilty of murder, or sacrilege, or incest, or treason, (to speak of the ordinary heads of accusation against ourselves), without demanding

in corroboration proof of the nature of the act, the number of the perpetrators, the place, manner, time, accomplices, companions. In our case, no care of this kind is taken ; although it is equally necessary that whatever is now falsely asserted should be elicited ; upon how many infants each had already fed ;^a how many incestuous crimes he had hidden in darkness ; who were employed to prepare the human banquet ; what dogs to extinguish the lights. Great would be the glory of that President, who could discover one who had already devoured an hundred infants ! Yet we find that even enquiry into our cases is forbidden. For the younger Pliny, when he had the command of a Province, and had condemned some Christians, and removed others from their offices, was yet perplexed at their number, and at that time consulted the Emperor Trajan^b what he should do with the remainder, declaring that, with the exception of their obstinate refusal to sacrifice, he had discovered nothing respecting their religious obligations, than that they assembled at day-break to sing to Christ as God, and to unite in the exercises of their religion, prohibiting murder, adultery, fraud, perfidy, and all other crimes. Upon this, Trajan returned for

^a See Justin Martyr's *Apology*, c. 35. note (r) and Tertullian's *Apology*, cc. 7, 8.

^b Pliny, Epist. x. 97. The Epistle and answer of Trajan, as translated by Melmoth, are subjoined, for convenience of reference, at the end of the volume.

answer, that persons of this persuasion should not be enquired after, but should be punished if brought before him. What a self-contradictory sentence! He assumes their innocence, when he directs enquiry not to be made; yet commands them to be punished, as guilty. He is lenient, and cruel; he connives, and censures. Why do you thus contradict yourself in your own determination? If you condemn, why do you not also enquire? If you enquire, why do you not also acquit? Throughout every province, military stations are established for the discovery of robbers. Against those guilty of treason and public offences every man is a soldier: strict enquiry is made even into the companions and accomplices of such offenders. In the case of a Christian alone, enquiry is forbidden, accusation is permitted: as if enquiry itself were intended for any other purpose than as the foundation of an accusation. Ye condemn, therefore, him who is brought before you, although no one wished him to be enquired for; and it seems, that the accused did not deserve punishment, because he was guilty, but because he was discovered, in opposition to the edict, which forbade enquiry to be made. Again, ye violate, in our case, the ordinary process, which is followed in the investigation of crimes; since ye torture other criminals, to make them confess; Christians alone, to compel them to deny: whereas, if that of which we are accused

were evil, we should deny the fact, and ye would compel us by tortures to confess. For ye ought not to think it needless to make enquiry respecting the crimes alleged, on the plea that they are admitted, by the very confession of the name of Christian; since, at this day, although ye well know what murder is, ye still think it necessary to extract the circumstances of his crime, even from one who confesses himself guilty of murder. Nay, still more unreasonably, having presumed our guilt, from the mere confession of the name of Christian, ye compel us by tortures to retract our confession; as if, by denying the name, we should at once deny the crimes, which, from that confession, ye had presumed to exist. But, we are, perhaps, to imagine, ye wish us not to perish, bad as ye consider us to be. Your custom may be to entreat the murderer to deny his crime; to torture the sacrilegious, if he persists in his confession. If this is not the principle upon which ye act towards us, as guilty, then ye consider us most innocent; since, as most innocent, ye will not permit us to continue in that confession, which, as ye well know, ye condemn from compulsion, rather than from a sense of justice. A man exclaims, I am a Christian. He speaks the truth: ye desire to hear what is not the truth. Ye, who preside for the purpose of extorting truth, from us alone endeavour to hear falsehood. The accused declares, I am, such as ye

enquire whether I am. Why do ye seek to mislead me by torture? I confess; and ye torture me: what would ye do, if I denied? When others deny, ye believe them not readily; when we deny, ye believe us at once. This contradiction might alone lead you to suspect, that there is some secret force, which instigates you in opposition to the very forms and nature of judicial proceedings, and to the very laws themselves. For, if I rightly judge, the laws require the guilty to be discovered, not concealed; they pronounce that those who confess should be punished, not acquitted. The decrees of the senate, the commands of princes, the supreme power, of which ye are the ministers, dictate this. Your authority is legal, not tyrannical: for with tyrants, tortures form also a part of punishment: with you, they are used only for eliciting the truth. Maintain this your law, respecting the application of torture, until confession is made. And if torture is anticipated by a confession, it will be superseded, and sentence should be passed. The malefactor is to be discharged^c from the punishment due to his offences, by its infliction, not by its remission. No one, in fact, desires to release him, or is permitted to entertain such a wish. Hence, no one is ever compelled to deny. Whereas ye regard a Christian as a man stained with every crime, the enemy of the gods, of the emperors, of the laws, of morals,

^c Expungendus est.

of all nature; and compel him to deny, that ye may absolve him; since, without his denial, ye could not extend mercy to him. Thus ye pervert the laws.⁴ Would ye then have him deny his guilt, that ye may treat him as innocent, and absolve him, even against his will, of all previous guilt? Whence is this inconsistency? Consider ye not, that his voluntary confession was far more credible than his compulsory denial? Or that, if he be compelled to retract, his disavowal may be insincere; and that, when dismissed, he will again become a Christian, and smile, behind your judgment seat, at the absurdity of your hatred?

Since, then, your treatment of us is entirely different from that of other criminals; since this is your only object, that we should be deprived of the name of Christians,—for we are deprived of it, if we act as those who are not Christians—ye may understand,⁵ that there is no crime in the fact itself; but that some active principle of hatred pursues the very name of Christian, and produces especially this effect, that men are determined not to acquire any certain knowledge of a subject, of which they

⁴ *Prævaricaris in leges.* Having taken upon yourselves the office of accusers, ye so conduct your proceedings, as if your principal object were, not to investigate the guilt of the accused, but to give him every opportunity of escaping.

⁵ *Intelligere potestis, non scelus aliquod in causâ esse, sed nomen, quod quædam ratio æmulæ operationis insequitur, hoc primum agens, ut homines nolint scire pro certo quod se ne-scire pro certo sciunt.*

well know they are totally ignorant. Hence it is, that they believe circumstances respecting us, which are not proved; and will not enquire, lest those accusations should be proved to be false, which they would rather wish to be believed; that the name, which is so opposed to that principle of hatred, should be condemned simply on its confession; upon the presumption, not upon the proof, of guilt. Hence we are tortured, if we confess; and punished, if we persevere; and absolved, if we deny; because the question regards the name only.

Moreover, why, in the accusation, do ye charge a person as a Christian? If a Christian be a murderer, or incestuous, why not accuse him of murder, or of any other crime, of which ye believe us guilty?^f In our case alone, is there the least scruple or hesitation to declare the crimes of which any one is accused. The term Christian,^g if it implies no crime, is nugatory; if it implies merely the crime of professing that name, it must surely possess some very peculiar and hateful meaning.

^f Denique quid de tabellâ recitatis illum Christianum? cur non et homicidam? cur non et incestum? si homicida Christianus, vel quodcumque aliud esse nos creditis? (Haver-camp.)

^g Christianus, si nullius criminis nomen est, valdè ineptum; si solius nominis crimen est, valdè infestum.

CHAPTER III.

IT is almost needless to observe, that the greater part follow their hatred of Christianity so blindly, that, even when they bear testimony to any one's good qualities, they still upbraid him with the name which he bears. "Caius Seius," they say, "is a good man, except that he is a Christian." Another observes, "I am quite surprised that so wise a man as Lucius Titius should have suddenly become a Christian." No one thinks of demanding in return, whether Caius is not good, or Lucius prudent, because he is a Christian; or a Christian, because he is prudent and good. They praise what they know; they blame what they know not; at the same time distorting what they know, by reasons drawn from that of which they are ignorant; although justice would rather require them to form an opinion of that which is unknown, from that which is known, than to condemn what is evident, from that which is secret. Others, in describing persons, whom, before their profession of Christianity, they had known to be given up to

licentiousness, to every base lust, and immorality, use terms, which are really those of approbation; thus, in the blindness of their hatred, bearing unwilling testimony to the excellence of that which they condemn. They say of a woman, "How wanton, how gay she used to be!" of a young man, "What a libertine, what a profligate, he was! now they are both become Christians!" Thus the name is coupled with their reformation.

Some would even make a compromise with their hatred of Christianity, to their own disadvantage; being well satisfied to be injured in the tenderest points, provided they are freed from the intrusion of such objects of hatred in their own homes. The husband, who hath now no longer any reason for jealousy, expels his now virtuous wife from his house: the father, formerly indulgent, disinherits his now obedient son: the master, once lenient, sends his now faithful servant from his sight. Each one becomes hateful, in proportion as he is amended by the profession of this faith. The improvement, which hath followed from it, is not sufficient to counteract the general hatred towards the Christians.

Further, then, if the hatred belongs to the name, what guilt can be attached to any appellation? what accusation can be founded on a word? unless it be said, that the very name itself hath a barbarous sound, or is of evil omen, or scandalous, or

immodest. Now the term Christian, as to its meaning, is derived from a word, which signifies to anoint. And even when it is mis-pronounced Chrestian by you,^a—for you are in ignorance even of the name itself—that appellation would, from its derivation, imply sweetness or benignity. Hence even a harmless name is hated, in men who are harmless too.

But, it will be said, the sect^b is hated for the name of its author. Is it then a new thing that persons, holding peculiar tenets, should receive an appellation from the name of the author of them? Are not philosophers denominated from Plato, Epicurus, and Pythagoras; or even Stoicks and Aca-

* It is not surprising that gentile writers should have confounded the words Christus and Chrestus (*Χρηστός*). Thus Suetonius (Claud. xxv.) says “*Judeos, impulsore Chreste assidue tumultuantes, Româ expulit (Claudius).*” The words of Suetonius do not necessarily imply, that he conceived Christ to have lived in the time of Claudius; but that tumults then arose in Rome among the Jews, respecting him, some of them affirming and others denying that he was the Messiah. The expulsion of the Jews from Rome, by Claudius, is mentioned, Acts xviii. 2. Lactantius iv. 7. treats of the common error in the name of Christ; “*Sed exponenda hujus nominis ratio est, propter ignorantium errorem, qui eum, immutatâ literâ, Chrestum solent dicere.*”

The names Chrestus and Chresta were not uncommon among the Greeks and Romans.

^b The word *secta*, like the corresponding term *αἵρεσις*, was originally indifferent in its application: it implied the adoption of certain opinions, without any such expression of disapprobation as the term *heresy* subsequently conveyed.

demics from their places of meeting, and ordinary resort? Have not physicians been named from Erasistratus, grammarians from Aristarchus, and even cooks from Apicius? Yet no one ever took offence at a name, thus transmitted from the founder of a system with his peculiar tenets.

If, indeed, any one proves that the author of any opinions was bad, or his sect bad, he will then prove that the name ought to be hated, for the faults of the sect, and of its author. Wherefore, before hatred of the name of Christian should have been indulged, a judgment ought to have been formed, either of the sect from its author, or of the author from his sect. But now, without the slightest enquiry or knowledge of either, the name is made the subject of detention and accusation: and the appellation alone at once condemns the sect, and the author, equally unknown; because they bear this name, not because their guilt is proved.

CHAPTER IV.

HAVING, then, premised these remarks, to expose the injustice of the public hatred against us, I shall now proceed to establish the plea of our innocence; and not only disprove what is objected against us, but also retort the charge upon our accusers: that hence all may know, that practices do not prevail among the Christians, which actually exist among themselves, without their knowledge: and that they may be put to the blush, when accusations are thus brought—I say not by men of the worst character against the best,—but, if they will have it so, against men like themselves. We shall answer every separate charge, both what we are accused of doing in secret, and what we openly avow: the actions in which we are regarded as impious, or foolish, or culpable, or ridiculous. But since, even when our plain statement of the truth hath removed all reasonable objections, we are, after all, borne down by the authority of the laws themselves, and * by the assertion, that, when laws

* This passage plainly shews, that, at the period when this Apology was written, certain laws were in existence against the

are once established, no alteration must be made in them, or that judges must, however unwillingly, prefer absolute obedience to the laws, to the plain investigation of truth ; I will first argue with you, as with the guardians of the laws.

Now, in the first place, when ye pronounce your decision, in these words, “ Ye are not permitted to exist ;” and deliver this command, without any more lenient modification, ye act by arbitrary force, and an iniquitous and absolute power, if ye forbid our existence, because it is contrary to your will, not because we ought not to be. But, if ye determine that, because we ought not to exist, therefore we shall not ; doubtless that which is evil in

the Christian religion. Tertullian makes the same assertion in c. 5, and 37 : and in his first book *ad Nationes*, c. 7. he says, that the edicts of Nero against the Christians were still in force. “ *Et tamen permansit, erasis omnibus, hoc solum institutum Neronianum : justum denique, ut dissimile sui auctoris.* ” Mosheim inadvertently states (Cent. ii. Part i. c. 2.) that “ In the beginning of the second century, there were no laws in force against the Christians : for the senate had annulled the cruel edicts of Nero : and Nerva had abrogated the sanguinary laws of his predecessor Domitian.” Yet in c. 7. he says, “ the imperial laws against the Christians were not abrogated, and the iniquitous edicts of Trajan and Marcus Antoninus were still in force ; there was consequently a door open to the fury and injustice of corrupt magistrates, as often as they were pleased to exercise them on the Church.” Gibbon, c. xvi. p. 540. (418) concludes, from the celebrated letter addressed by Pliny to Trajan, that at that period “ there were no general laws or decrees of the senate in force against the Christians.” See Bp. Kaye’s Tertullian, p. 114.

itself ought not to be allowed ; yet this very conclusion implies that what is good ought to be permitted. If I shall discover that what your law forbids is in itself good, shall I not at once prove, that the law cannot forbid that which, if it were evil, it might justly prohibit ?^b If your law hath erred, it is, I imagine of human origin ; it fell not from heaven.^c Is it astonishing, that man could either err in framing laws, or shew his better judgment in amending them ? Did not the amendment of the laws of Lycurgus himself by the Lacedæmonians cause such grief to their author, that he starved himself to death in his retirement.^d Do not even ye yourselves, in daily endeavouring to throw light upon the darkness of antiquity, clear away and fell all the old and unsightly forest of laws, by the renovating axes of the rescripts and edicts of your princes ? Did not Severus, that most determined of your emperors, but yesterday abrogate those most absurd Papian laws,^e which

^b Si bonum invenero esse, quod lex tua prohibuit, nonne ex illo præjudico prohibere eam non posse, quod, si malum esset, jure prohiberet ?

^c Tertullian covertly alludes to the pretensions which Numa and other early Romans made, to præternatural communications : and to the Ancilia, which were said to have fallen from heaven. Compare Acts xix. 25.

^d Plutarch's account is, that Lycurgus starved himself, after having taken an oath of his citizens, that they would maintain his laws inviolate till his return.

^e The Julian law, introduced by Augustus, A. U. C. 736. as a means of repairing the great waste of population in the civil wars,

inflicted a penalty, if children were not born to persons, before they had attained the age, at which the Julian laws required them to have contracted marriage; and that too, after the laws had acquired all the authority of long duration? There

wars, encouraged marriages by facilitating and regulating the nuptial contract, and imposing penalties on those who should continue unmarried after a certain age.

The Papian law, called also Papia Poppaea from the Consuls Papius and Poppaeus, was introduced A. U. C. 762. at the conclusion of the reign of Augustus. This offered greater advantages to married men, and established more severe penalties upon those who lived in a state of celibacy, and those who had no children, than the Julian law, or the previous customs of the Romans.

Thus married men had precedence in the public spectacles: (Suetonius. Aug. 44.) they had a priority in the election to public offices; and many other privileges. The same law confirmed the rights conferred upon those who had children: in all competition for public officers gave the preference to the candidates in proportion to the number of their family, and permitted those, who were fathers at an early age, to fill offices, for which their youth would otherwise have disqualified them.

The celebrated Jus trium liberorum had its origin in the Julian law.

The principal restrictions attached to a state of celibacy regarded the capability of inheriting property and receiving testamentary benefactions. Single men could inherit nothing, except from their most immediate relatives; and those who had no children could receive only the half of a legacy. Sozomen has noticed this circumstance, Eccles. Hist. i. 9.

“Νόμος δὲ Ρωμαίοις παλαιός, ἀπὸ εἴκοσι καὶ πέντε ἔτων τῶν ἵσων ἀξιούσθαι κωλύων τοὺς ἀγάμους τοὺς μὴ τοιούτους, περὶ ἀλλα τε πολλὰ, καὶ τὸ μηδὲν κερδαίνειν ἐκ διαθῆκης τοὺς μῆ γένει ἐγγυτάτῳ προσήκοντας· τοὺς δὲ ἄπαιᾶς, ζημιῶν τὸ ἥμισυ τῶν καταλελειμμένων.”

Such

were also 'laws' providing, that those, who were previously condemned, might be cut in pieces by their creditors: but by public consent this cruel enactment was erased: and the capital punishment was commuted for a mark of disgrace. The confiscation of a man's goods was directed against his feelings of shame, not against his life.⁴ How many laws of yours yet remain to be reformed, which are

Such legacies and inheritances were forfeited to the state. Tertullian de Monogamiâ, c. 16. alludes to the same custom. "Aliud est, si et apud Christum legibus Julii agi credunt, et existimant, cælibes et orbos ex testamento Dei solidum non posse capere."

The absurdity, here mentioned by Tertullian, is a contradiction which had subsisted for many years between the Julian and Papian laws. The Papian law subjected to restrictions those who were childless, a man at the age of twenty-five, and a woman at the age of twenty, a time of life, at which, by the Julian law, they were still permitted to remain unmarried.

The penalties against celibacy were removed by Constantine, to favour those Christians who continued in that state from motives of religion. Eusebius Vit. Constantin. iv. 2, 6.

The substance of the Julian and Papian laws is given by Lipsius, in his Excursus ad Taciti Ann. iii. 25.

⁴ The laws of the twelve tables, c. 8. Aul. Gellius Noct. Att. xx. 1. Si plures forent, quibus reus esset judicatus, se-care, si vellent, atque partiri corpus addicti sibi hominis per-miserunt. Et quidem verba ipsa legis dicam, ne existimes in-vidiā me istam fortè formidare. TERTIIS. INQUIT, NUNDINIS. PARTIS. SECANTO. SI. PLUS. MINUS. VE. SECUERUNT. SE. FRAUDE. ESTO.

Quinctilian, Instit. Orat. iii. 6. 84. alludes to the same law Sunt enim quædam non laudabilia naturâ, sed jure concessa: ut in xii. tabulis debitoris corpus inter creditores dividi licuit, quam legem mos publicus repudiavit.

⁵ Bonorum adhibita proscriptio suffundere maluit hominis sanguinem quam effundere.

maintained neither by their own antiquity, nor by the dignity of those who enacted them, but by justice alone; and therefore, when they are proved to be unjust, they, which condemn others, are justly condemned themselves. But why should we call them simply unjust? If they punish a mere name, they are foolish too. And if they punish men for their actions, why, in our case, do they punish such actions on the presumption of the name alone, while, in other cases, they require them to be proved from circumstances, not from the mere name? Suppose I am guilty of incest: why do not the laws inquire into the offence? Suppose I have murdered an infant; why do they not put me to the torture? Suppose I have committed a crime against the gods, against Cæsar: why am I not heard, when I have the means of clearing myself? No law forbids the investigation of an action which it disallows. Since not even a judge can rightly put the law in force, unless he first ascertains that a crime hath been committed: neither can a citizen faithfully obey the law, while he is ignorant what offence is punished. Every law is required to give proof of its justice, not only to itself, but to those from whom it expects obedience. And any law is justly suspected, which will not submit to proof; and unjust, if, without proof, it yet exercises arbitrary power.

CHAPTER V.

Now, to refer in some measure to the origin of laws of this kind, there was an old decree,^a that no Deity should be consecrated by the Emperor, without the approbation of the senate. Marcus Emilius knows this well, in the matter of his god Alburnus. This circumstance also is in our favour, that the divinity of your gods depends upon the estimation of man. A god is no god, unless he pleases man; and man must now be propitious to the god. Tiberius,^b then, in whose time the name

^a The law is given in Cicero de Legibus ii. Separatim nemo habessit Deos, neve novos; sed ne advenas, nisi publicè adscitos, privatim colunto.

^b The fact here mentioned, and repeated in c. 21. with the addition that Tiberius received the account from Pilate, who in his conscience was a Christian, rests solely on the authority of Tertullian. Eusebius, H. E. ii. 2. gives a translation of this passage, but refers to no other testimony in confirmation of it: and Justin Martyr, when, in two instances, he refers to the Acts of Pilate, (Apol. cc. 45, 63.) mentions no proposal made to the senate of Rome by Tiberius, respecting Christ.

It is not surprising that Jortin (Remarks on Eccles. Hist. Vol. i. p. 2.) and Gibbon (Decline and Fall, c. xvi. p. 556. 4to.) should agree with Le Clerc (Hist. Eccles. p. 324.) in giving little

of Christian entered into the world, laid before the senate intelligence, which had been sent from Palestine, and proved the truth of the Divine power there displayed, and added the influence of his own

little credit to this statement. Dupin (*Bibliothèque*, Tom. i. p. 24.) considers the fact doubtful: and Bp. Kaye (*Tertullian*, c. ii. p. 112.) is of opinion "that the story is liable to just suspicion:" and observes, "How happened it that so remarkable a fact, as a public proposal from the Emperor to the Senate to receive Christ among the gods of Rome, escaped the notice of every other writer?"

Lardner, in his *Testimonies of Ancient Heathen Authors*, c. 2. discusses this question at length: and concludes "that the accounts of those ancient authors Justin Martyr and Tertullian deserve some regard."

He observes, after Bp. Pearson, (*Lection. in Act. Apost. iv. sect. 15. p. 65.*) that those two are early writers of good repute: that it was customary for governors of provinces to compose memoirs or acts, such as are here referred to: that, if Pilate wrote at all to Tiberius respecting Christ, he was likely to speak favourably and honourably of him: that it was not inconsistent with the known character of Tiberius to make such a proposal, nor improbable that the senate should not comply with it: that it is not necessary to suppose that the Emperor was well acquainted with the doctrines of Christianity, or at all inclined to be a Christian, since the very reverse is immediately asserted by Tertullian.

In his observations upon this question, Lardner has scarcely made sufficient distinction between the testimonies of Justin Martyr and Tertullian. Justin speaks of the *Acts of Pilate*, and appeals to them, as being accessible at the time when he wrote. But he does not expressly state even that the contents of those acts was made known to Tiberius.

Tertullian asserts, that Pilate did communicate with Tiberius, and that, in consequence of the extraordinary nature of that communication, he proposed to the senate that Jesus Christ should be received among the deities of Rome. The last fact rests upon the single testimony of Tertullian.

Christopher

vote. The Senate rejected the proposal, because it had not itself first approved it. The Emperor persisted in his opinion; and threatened those with punishment, who should accuse the Christians. Consult your own records; ye will there find that Nero was the first who wielded the sword of the empire against the Christian religion, then first springing up in Rome. And we justly glory in the fact, that our first persecutor was such a man. For whoever knows his character may understand that nothing but what was excellently good would be persecuted by Nero. Domitian also, who had a portion of Nero's cruelty, made a similar attempt; but, retaining some sentiments of humanity, soon desisted, and even permitted those whom he had banished to return. Such have ever been our persecutors; the unjust, the ungodly, the vile; men of such character, that ye yourselves have been accustomed to condemn them, and to restore those whom they have condemned. But from that time down to the present reign, out of so many emperors who were acquainted with religion or humanity, we challenge you to mention one, who was an

Christopher Iselin wrote a letter in defence of the truth of this fact, published in the Bibliothèque Germanique, Tom. xxxii. p. 147. Tom. xxiii. p. 12. Lardner refers also to Tillemont, Mem. Eccles. Tom. i. St. Pierre, Art. 19. Sueur, Hist. de l'Eglise et de l'Empire, Tom. i. p. 130. and Grotius on Matt. xxiv. 11.

enemy of the Christians. On the contrary, we appeal to a protector, if the letters of that most worthy Emperor Marcus Aurēlius are examined,^c in which he testifies, that, in Germany, the thirst

^c *At nos è contrario edimus protectorem, si literæ Marci Aurelii gravissimi imperatoris requirantur, quibus illam Germanicam sitim, Christianorum fortè militum precationibus impetrato imbri, discussam testatur.* The same words, with an inconsiderable variation of expression, are given by Jerome in his Latin translation of Eusebius's Chronicon. p. 170.

Tertullian repeats the assertion in his Treatise ad Scapulam, c. 4. Marcus quoque Aurelius, in Germanicā expeditione Christianorum militum orationibus ad Deum factis, imbres in siti illā impetravit. But he there makes no mention of the letter of Marcus Aurelius. Eusebius (H. E. v. 5.) refers to this passage of Tertullian's Apology, as the authority for the account which he gives of the Thundering Legion; and he and subsequent writers (Orosius vii. 15. Nicephorus iv. 12. Zonaras Ann. Tom. ii. 207.) make considerable additions to the facts mentioned by Tertullian. Eusebius states, but in a manner which shews he doubted the authority on which the fact rested, that a violent storm of thunder and lightning put the enemy to flight, while a shower refreshed the Roman army which was about to perish with thirst.

The fact, that such a seasonable shower did happen, is expressly asserted by several heathen writers; and there is still extant the celebrated Antonine Column, which represents Jupiter Pluvius, under the appearance of an aged man with outstretched arms, pouring down a violent rain, which refreshes the Romans and discomfits their enemies. Dion Cassius, l. 71. ascribes the shower to the magical arts of Arnuphis, an Egyptian magician: and Suidas, on the word Arnuphis, says that others attributed it to the power of Julian a Chaldean.

Tertullian does not here state that he had seen the letter of Marcus Aurelius, to which he appeals. And such a letter is quite at variance with the general character of that Emperor, and with the persecutions to which the Christians were subject

under

of his troops was dispelled by a shower, obtained by the prayers of some Christian soldiers, who happened to be in his army. That Emperor, although he did not publicly abrogate the punishments directed against the Christians, averted them by another public act, by subjecting their accusers to a punishment of a still more severe nature.

What then are these laws, which none but the impious, the unjust, the vile, the trifling, the insane enforce? of which Trajan partly frustrated the effect, by forbidding enquiry to be made after Christians? which neither Adrian, although a searcher out of all new and curious doctrines, nor Vespasian, although the conqueror of the Jews, nor Pius,⁴ nor Verus put into action. Now it is plain,

under his reign. Mosheim (*De rebus Christianor. ante Constant. Sect xvii.*) is of opinion that Tertullian was thinking of the edict, which Antoninus Pius, who is often confounded with Marcus Aurelius Antoninus, wrote to the community of Asia. (*Euseb. H. E. iv. 13.*) See p. 278.

The letter, on this subject, purporting to be written by Marcus Aurelius, and subjoined to Justin Martyr's *Apology*, (p. 101. Paris edition) is generally believed to be spurious.

Lardner (*Testimony of Ancient Heathens*, Marcus Antoninus, Sect. iii.) has collected the opinions of various writers upon this subject. See also a most luminous and accurate account in Bp. Kaye's *Tertullian*, p. 106.

⁴ Antoninus Pius, to whom the *Apology* of Justin Martyr is addressed. It is doubtful whether the Verus, to whom this allusion is made, is Lucius Ælius Verus, the adopted son of Adrian, or his son Lucius Verus. See note (b) at the beginning of the *Apology* of Justin Martyr, p. 171. The name Verus may even refer to Marcus Aurelius, to whom it was sometimes applied.

that men, as bad as Christians are represented to be, would be destroyed by all the best princes, who would naturally be opposed to them, rather than by those who were like themselves.

CHAPTER VI.

I SHOULD now wish, that they, who make such a profession of scrupulously protecting and observing the laws and institutions of their fathers, would answer a question as to the faithfulness, with which they have themselves honoured and respected them. Is there no law which they have violated? none which they have transgressed? Have they not abrogated the most necessary and wholesome parts of ancient discipline? What is become of those laws, which were enacted to restrain luxury and ostentation; which commanded that no more than an hundred pence should be expended upon an entertainment, nor more than one fowl, and that not fatted, should be set before the guests; which removed from the Senate, as a man of notorious ostentation, one who possessed ten pounds of silver; which immediately destroyed the theatres, which were then beginning to be raised, as tending to the destruction of morals; and permitted no one, without just and sufficient cause, to assume the dignity, and adopt the distinctions, of noble birth? For now I see that the expence of

entertainments is to be reckoned by hundreds, not of pence, but of pounds ; and that massive silver is formed into dishes, not for senators only, but for men just freed from slavery, and hardly yet escaped from the lash. I see that one theatre alone is not sufficient ; they must be both numerous and covered :^a and we are to suppose the Lacedæmonians invented that odious cloak, lest winter should throw a chill upon the immodest pleasures of the theatre.^b I recognise no longer any distinction of dress, between a matron and a prostitute. And all those regulations of our ancestors have fallen into disuse, which favoured modesty and sobriety in the conduct of women : when no woman wore a gold ring on more than one finger, that, namely, on which it was placed at her espousal : when women abstained from the use of wine so scrupulously, that a matron was starved to death by her family, for having broken open the vaults of a wine cellar : and, in the time of Romulus, a woman,

^a The theatres were originally open : afterwards coverings of different kinds were devised to shelter the spectators from the heat of the sun.

^b Nam (Jam) ne vel hyeme voluptas impudica frigeret, primi Lacedæmonii odium penulæ ludis excogitaverunt.

Luxury hath reached such a point, that neither the heat of summer nor the cold of winter prevents the assembling of the people in the theatres. Even the thick cloak, which the Lacedæmonians invented to defend themselves from the weather in war, might appear to have been invented to shelter from the cold our effeminate frequenters of the theatres.

who had touched wine, was killed with impunity by her husband Mecenius. Hence the custom arose for them to salute their near relations with a kiss; that their breath might detect them. Where is now that happiness of the marriage state, which accompanied the severity of ancient manners, so that not one family was sullied by a divorce, for nearly six hundred years after the foundation of the city of Rome? Now, as for your women, their whole person is weighed down with gold; their breath universally betrays their indulgence in wine: and divorce is now a part of the marriage vow, as if it were the natural consequence of matrimony. Even the very decrees, which your ancestors have wisely enacted respecting your gods, ye, their most obedient followers, have rescinded. The consuls, with the authority of the Senate, banished the worship of Bacchus, with its mysteries, not only from the city (of Rome,) but from all Italy. Although Piso and Gabinius were no Christians, yet in their consulship they forbade Serapis, Isis, and Harpocrates, with his accompanying deity having a dog's head, to be brought into the capitol; which was in fact expelling them from the assembly of the gods; and overthrew their altars, in their anxiety to suppress the abuses of their base and idle superstitions. Now these very deities ye have restored, and invested with supreme authority. Where then is your religion? Where is the rever-

ence which ye owe to your ancestors? In dress, in diet, in equipage, in expence, nay even in language, ye have degenerated from your forefathers. Ye are constantly praising the ancients; ye live daily as moderns. And in this it is made manifest, that, in departing from the good institutions of your ancestors, ye retain and observe what ye ought not, while ye observe not what ye ought. Thus ye maintain, with the utmost fidelity, the law delivered down from your ancestors, by which ye principally condemn the Christians, that law respecting the worship of strange gods, which was one of the greatest errors of antiquity. Still, although ye have restored the altars of Serapis, now made a Roman god; although ye have introduced all the furious orgies dedicated to Bacchus, now naturalized in Italy, I will yet take occasion to shew in its proper place,^c that ye have in fact despised, and neglected, and destroyed, the authority of your ancestors. For at present I shall answer the infamous accusation of secret atrocities, with which we are charged, to clear the way for the vindication of the actions which we avowedly perform.

^c See c. 13.

CHAPTER VII.

IT is said, then, that we are guilty of most horrible crimes; that, in the celebration of our sacrament, we put a child to death,* which we afterwards devour; and at the end of our banquet revel in incest; that we employ dogs, as ministers of our impure delights, to overthrow the lights, and thus to provide darkness, and remove all shame, which might interfere with these impious lusts. But this is always mere assertion: and ye take no pains to prove what for so long a time, ye continue to assert. Either therefore investigate the truth, if ye believe the charge, or cease to believe, what ye have not proved. Your dissimulation in this matter plainly implies, that crimes, which ye dare not investigate, have no existence. Ye impose upon your executioner very different commands respecting the Christians; not that

* See note (r) on Justin Martyr's *Apology*, c. 35. This calumny might possibly have originated from some misconception, or wilful perversion, of the solemnization of the Eucharist.

she declares a fact; and thenceforth it is considered as a fact, and so denominated. No one, for instance, says, "It is reported that such a circumstance hath happened at Rome," or, "The rumour is, that he hath obtained such a province;" but, "He hath the province," and "it hath taken place at Rome." Fame, the very name of which implies that it is uncertain, hath no existence when a fact is certain. And who, but a man of no reflection, would ever believe common report? for no wise man trusts to what is uncertain. All men are competent to judge upon this point; with whatever perseverance it is disseminated, upon whatever strength of asseveration it is built. It must have had its origin from one source, and thence have been transmitted through many tongues and ears. Thus the circumstances, which have gathered round a rumour, so hide the error and meanness of its origin, that no one enquires whether the first reporter did not disseminate a falsehood; a circumstance which frequently happens, either from an envious disposition, or by the aggravation of a mere suspicion, or by the habitual and natural pleasure which some take in lying.

Well is it, that, according to your own proverbs and sayings, Time reveals all things; that events are so ordered by the constitution of nature, that nothing is long concealed, even though fame should never have reported it.

Yet this common fame is the only accuser, which ye bring against us; an accuser, which hath never yet been able to prove, what it hath at different times asserted, and for so long a period endeavoured to corroborate.

C H A P T E R VIII.

IN answer to those who think these accusations credible, I would appeal to the testimony of nature herself. Suppose that we promise a reward for these atrocities, even eternal life. Conceive this for a moment. And then I demand, whether, if you believed this, you would think eternity itself worth purchasing at the price of such a burden on the conscience? Suppose a man were thus addressed: “Come, plunge your steel into an infant, who can have committed no offence, can be no one’s enemy, and may be any one’s child. Or, if this murderous office falls to another, merely be present, while a human being dies, almost before he is brought to life; wait for the departure of the soul but just united with the body; catch the scarcely-formed blood, saturate your bread with it, eat freely. Meanwhile, as you recline at the banquet, observe the places where your mother and your sister sit; mark them well; that when the dogs shall have put out the lights, you may be sure to make no mistake; for it will be a mortal sin, if you fail to commit incest. Thus initiated

and thus sealed you shall live for ever." I would have you answer me, whether eternity is worth all this; and if not, that you will allow the charge to be incredible. Even if you believed such promises as these, I am persuaded you would not comply; even if you would, I know you could not. Why, then, should others be able to do so, if ye cannot? why are ye unable to do it, if others can? Are we conceived to be of a different nature from yourselves,* monsters, like those described in India and in Africa, with the heads of dogs, and feet which would overshadow the body? Are our teeth set differently from yours, or our bodies so framed as to be peculiarly fitted for incestuous passion? If you can believe this of any human being, you are yourself capable of committing it: you yourself are a man; and so is a Christian. What you could not do, you ought not to believe. For a Christian too is a human being; and in all respects such as you are.

But, it will be said, none but the ignorant are imposed upon, and seduced into the commission of these atrocities: men who never knew that crimes like these were ascribed to the Christians. But

* Alià nos, opinor, naturà; Cynopæne an Sciapodes?

Tertullian has the same expression, ad Nationes i. c. 8. Planè tertium genus dicimur. Cynopennæ (Cynopæne) aliqui, vel Sciapodes, vel aliqui sub terrâ Antipodes? Si qua istic apud vos saltem ratio est, edatis velim primum et secundum genus, ut ita de tertio constet.

surely, in such cases, every one would observe and diligently examine for himself.

It is, I imagine, customary for all those, who are desirous of being initiated, first to apply to the chief priest, and to ascertain what preparation is to be made. We are to believe, then, that when this enquiry is made by any one who is desirous of becoming a Christian, he is told, “ You must procure a young and tender child, one who knows not what death is, and will smile under your knife: you must have some bread too, to suck up every drop of blood which flows; and besides these, candle-sticks and lights; and some dogs, and bits of meat to draw them off, so as to throw down the candles. Above all, take care and come with your mother and your sister.” What is the poor candidate to do, if he cannot persuade them to accompany him, or should have none at all? What becomes of all Christians who have no such relations? No one, I suppose, can be a regular Christian, except he is a brother, or a son.

But suppose that all these preparations are made without the knowledge of the new Christians. At all events, they know all this afterwards, and yet submit to it, and allow it. They fear to be punished, while, if they proclaimed the truth, they would deserve universal approbation; and ought rather to prefer death, than submit to live with such a burden on their conscience. And even

if they feared to disclose the past, why do they also persevere for the future? For surely no one would continue to be such as he would never have been, had he been forewarned.

CHAPTER IX.

FOR the more complete refutation of these accusations, I will now shew, that these very atrocities are committed by yourselves, partly in public, and partly in secret, whence probably ye are so ready to believe us also guilty of them. In Africa, infants were openly sacrificed, until the time of Tiberius,^a who exposed the priests themselves alive, upon crosses made of the trees, to which their votive offerings used to be suspended, in the very groves of the temples which had overshadowed their murderous rites. In proof of this fact, we can appeal to the soldiers of our own country, who were employed by the proconsul in the execution of this very duty. And even now the same horrible sacrifice is secretly continued. Your ordinances are despised by others besides the Christians; no atrocity is for ever abrogated: no deity

^a Usque ad proconsulatum Tiberii; until the time of a Proconsul of Africa, in the reign of Tiberius. Scaliger, Epist. ad Casaub. 66. proposes to read proconsulem.

changes his habits.^b Since Saturn spared not his own children, he continued implacable to those of others. Nay, the very parents offered up their own children, paid their vows with the greatest alacrity, and soothed their infants, that they might not be sacrificed while in tears. Surely this murder of children by their parents is a far greater crime than homicide itself.

Adults were sacrificed to Mercury by the Gauls. I refer the fables of the Tauric Chersonese, to the theatres, where they are such favourite subjects: but even in the most religious city of the pious descendants of Æneas, there is a Jupiter (Latiaris), whom they sprinkle with human blood at his annual games.

But the blood thus shed, ye will say, is merely that of men already condemned to the beasts. As if this were not equally the murder of a human being; and an offering still more dishonourable to a god, inasmuch as it is that of a bad man. At all events, such bloodshed is murder. How truly is Jupiter thus a Christian, as ye conceive Christians to be, and the only son of his father for cruelty!

But since the guilt of infanticide is by no means different, whether the crime be committed

^b There are others, besides the Christians, who disobey your commands; since the secret sacrifices continue to be made in honour of Saturn, although your laws have long since prohibited them.

out of superstition or voluntarily,—although it is a great aggravation that the parents should be the agents—I will turn to the people. How many of those who stand around, and are so eager to shed the blood of the Christians, nay, how many of you who preside with such justice and severity in receiving the accusations against us, will be cut to the heart, when your consciences accuse you of the murder of your own children.

There is a difference also in the manner of inflicting death; and yours is more cruel than any of which we are accused; ye drown the breath of infants in the waters, or expose them to perish by cold, or famine, or the dogs. Surely any one able to make a choice would prefer the sword to such an end as this.

Our religion, on the contrary, not only forbids murder, but protects the fruit conceived in the womb, while yet the tender elements are scarcely formed into a human being. To prevent the birth is anticipated homicide: to take away life or to interrupt it in its natural course is equally culpable. That, which is to be a man, hath all the rights of humanity; the whole future fruit is concentrated in the seed.

With respect to feeding upon human blood, and other tragic banquets of a like nature, see if it be not related, I believe by Herodotus,^c that certain

^c Herodotus i. 74.

nations ratified their treaties by mutually tasting the blood drawn from each other's arms. Something of the same kind is told of Catiline.^d And it is reported that, among some nations of the Scythians, every one, as soon as he dies, is devoured by his own family. But I need not seek so far, for an example. At this very day, blood drawn by incisions in the thighs and given in the hand^e to drink, marks those who are consecrated to Bellona. Again, where are those who, for the cure of epilepsy, eagerly drink the fresh blood which flows from the throats of the condemned gladiators, who are stabbed in the arena? those too who feed upon the animals which are slain in public combat; who ask with eagerness for a piece of the boar or the stag? That boar tore, in the mortal struggle, the man whose blood he shed: that stag lay down in the gore which flowed from the gladiator's wound. The very entrails of wild boars are required for food, before they have themselves digested the human flesh, which they have devoured: and one human being is gorged to repletion with the flesh of animals which lived upon men. While ye practise such

^d Sallust mentions such a report: Bell. Catilin. c. 23. “Fuere eâ tempestate, qui dicerent, Catilinam oratione habitâ, cùm ad jusjurandum populares sceleris sui adigeret, humani corporis sanguinem vino permistum in pateris circumtulisse: inde cùm post execrationem omnes degustavissent, sicuti in solemnibus sacris fieri consuevit, dicitur aperuisse consilium.”

^e Palmulâ: perhaps we should read parmulâ, a shield.

atrocities, how far are ye yourselves from the horrible banquets of which ye accuse the Christians? And the still more ineffable abominations, which some of you commit,^f exceed in enormity even the crime of devouring children which is ascribed to us. Ye, who act thus, may blush at the Christians, who consider the blood even of animals forbidden food; and abstain from things strangled, and from such as die naturally, lest we should contract impurity by unwittingly feeding upon some portion of blood contained in the body.

Besides, among the trials to which ye expose Christians, one is to offer him to eat food prepared with the blood of animals, well knowing that the act, by which ye thus tempt them to transgress, is forbidden by our laws. Now, how can it be believed, that those, who thus abhor the blood of animals, should eagerly devour human blood? unless perhaps ye have yourselves tasted it, and found it sweeter. If that be the case, he who undertakes to examine a Christian should offer this to him, instead of the fire and incense, which is now used for the purpose. Christians would be known, by their taste for human blood, as well as they now are, by refusing to offer sacrifice; and should be

^f Minus autem et illi faciunt, qui libidine ferâ humanis membris inhiant, quia vivos vorant? minus humano sanguine ad spurcitiam consecrantur, quia futurum sanguinem lambunt? non edunt infantes planè, sed magis puberes.

put to death, if they tasted the blood, as they now are, if they sacrifice not. And, as long as ye conduct the accusation and condemnation of prisoners in the same manner as at present, there would be no lack of human blood, with which to make the experiment.

With respect to the alleged crime of incest, who was ever so great an example of this crime as Jupiter himself? Ctesias relates, how common the union of sons with their own mothers was, among the Persians. And the Macedonians are suspected of the same enormity, since, when they first witnessed the representation of the tragedy of Oedipus, they ridiculed the grief which he expressed for his involuntary crime, crying out *ηλαυνε τὴν ματέρα*.

Consider, now, how wide a field is opened to the involuntary commission of this crime of incest among yourselves, by the universal licentiousness which prevails. In the first place, ye expose your sons, as soon as they are born, to be taken up by the casual pity of some passing stranger; or give them up for adoption to others, who will make better parents than yourselves. The memory of a race thus dispersed must sometimes be lost. And if once such an error is committed, it will soon be aggravated by the addition of the crime of incest to the original guilt. Wherever ye go, at home, abroad, or beyond the sea, ye carry your unbridled passions with you: and this licentiousness may

well, in some instances, produce a race of children springing up, without their fathers' knowledge, as if they grew from seed scattered at random : and this promiscuous race, in the ordinary vicissitudes of human intercourse, is liable to unite with those of their own blood, and thus fall unwittingly into the perpetration of incest.

The constant and entire chastity, which we observe, defends us from this danger : we are as secure from the commission of incest, as we are free from all excesses and licentiousness after marriage. Some of us, with still greater security, prevent the possibility of errors of this nature, by preserving an immaculate continence, retaining in their old age the virgin purity of youth.

If ye properly considered, that all these enormities exist among yourselves, ye would at once perceive, that they are not found among the Christians. The same light would inform you of both these facts. But two kinds of blindness are frequently united, that which sees not what is, and that which thinks it sees what is not.

I shall shew how true this is, in all particulars. But first I will treat of what is most obvious.

C H A P T E R X.

YE accuse us Christians, of neither worshipping the gods, nor offering sacrifice for the safety of the Emperors. It follows, as a necessary consequence, that we sacrifice not for others, since we do not sacrifice even for ourselves, nor ever pay reverence to the gods. Hence we are accused at once of sacrilege and treason. This is the main part of the accusation against us; nay, it is the whole of it, and well worthy to be investigated, if judgment be formed without prejudice, and without injustice; the former of which hath no hope that the truth can be established, and the latter refuses to hear its voice.

We have refused to worship your gods, from the time that we were convinced that they were no gods.* Ye ought, therefore, to require us to prove that they are no gods, and therefore ought not to be worshipped: for undoubtedly they are worthy of all reverence, if only they be truly gods. Then also ought the Christians to be punished, if it

* 1 Cor. viii. 4.

should appear, that those are gods, whom they refused to worship, believing them not to be so. But, ye say, in our estimation they are gods. Here, then, we appeal at once from yourselves to your own conscience. That shall judge us; that shall condemn us, if it can deny that all those, whom ye consider gods, were once men. If your conscience denies this, it shall be convinced by a reference to your own works of antiquity, from which your knowledge of your deities is derived: for these bear testimony at the present day, both to the cities, in which they were born, and to the countries, in which they left traces of their achievements, and where their burial places are even now shewn. It will be needless for me to enumerate every individual of such an endless variety, new and old, barbarian, Greek, Roman, or foreign; such as were captives, or adopted; national or general; male or female; attached to the country or the town; naval or military. It would be tedious and useless even to mention all their titles. I will then make a compendious summary; and this, not for the purpose of instructing, but of reminding you, for ye act as if ye had forgotten the facts.

There is, among you, no god before Saturn: from his date, every other deity, although more esteemed or better known, is to be reckoned. Whatever, then, is established respecting the origin, will be true of those derived from it. Now, as

far as your records extend, neither Diodorus the Greek, nor Thallus, nor Cassius Severus, nor Cornelius Nepos, nor any other writer of antiquity of the same kind, speaks of Saturn as any other than a man. If we refer to facts, I find none better attested anywhere than in Italy itself, in which Saturn took up his abode, after many wanderings, and after he had been entertained in Attica, being received by Janus, or Janes, as the Salii call him. The mountain, in which he dwelt, is called Saturnius; the city, which he founded, retains the name of Saturnia to this day: and all Italy, which before was called Cenotria, received the appellation of Saturnia. From him was first received the knowledge of written characters, and the art of making impressions upon coins: whence he is the deity, who is supposed to preside over the treasury. If, then, Saturn was a man, he was of human birth; and if of human birth, he derived not his origin from the heaven and the earth. It was however an easy fiction to call him, whose true parents were unknown, the son of those elements, of which we all may seem to be the offspring. For who is there, who speaks not of the heaven and the earth as his mother and father, under a feeling of reverence and honour, or by the ordinary custom, by which those, who appear suddenly or unexpectedly, are said to have come from the skies? Hence it happened, that, wherever Saturn came suddenly, he

received the appellation of heaven-born.^b Just as even now those, whose descent is unknown, are commonly said to spring from the earth. I say nothing of the fact, that men were then in so rude and uncultivated a state, that they regarded the appearance of every stranger as something divine: since, even civilized as they now are, they consecrate among the gods those, whom, but a few days before, they confessed to be mortal, by the public mourning for their death. These few words are sufficient to shew, what Saturn really was.

We shall hereafter shew, that Jupiter is also a man, and of human origin; and that the whole swarm of that race of beings are both mortal, and of the same nature with the stock whence they arose.

^b Minucius Felix, Octavius, c. 22. adopts this argument of Tertullian.

Homo igitur utique qui fugit, homo utique qui latuit, et pater hominis, et natus ex homine: terræ enim et cœli filius, quod apud Italos esset ignotis parentibus proditus: ut in hodiernum inopinato visos, cœlo missos: ignobiles et ignotos terræ filios nominamus.

Lactantius, (Divin. Institutionum, Lib. i. 11.) appears to give Minucius the credit of inventing this explanation of the fable of Saturn.

CHAPTER XI.

SINCE, then, ye dare not deny that these were men, but have taken upon yourselves to assert that they were made gods, after their death, let us consider the causes, which have produced this. Now, first ye must admit, that there is some superior Deity, who hath the power of conferring divinity, and thus deifies mortals. For they could not themselves assume a divine nature, which they never had; nor could any one confer it, upon those who possessed it not, unless it were inherent in himself. And, if there were no person to make them gods, by removing the supposition of such an agent, ye destroy the possibility that they ever should have been made gods. For, assuredly, had they been able to make themselves, they never would have existed as men, while they had the power of assuming a more excellent nature. If, therefore, there exists some Being, who hath the power of making men into gods, I return to the consideration of the causes, which should induce him to exercise this power; and I find none, except

that such a supreme Deity might require instruments and agents, for performing the offices belonging to divinity. Now, in the first place, it is a supposition unworthy of the Divine nature, that the Supreme Being should stand in need of the aid of any one, much less of a dead man; since, had he been liable to require such assistance, it would have been more conformable with his dignity, to have at once created some god. But I see no room for such a supposition. For the universe, whether we regard it, with Pythagoras, as self-existent and uncreated, or, with Plato, as taking its origin from a creator, was, at all events, disposed once for all in the original design, and so framed and ordered; since every part is regulated by the guidance of reason. Now that, which brought every thing to perfection,^a could not itself be imperfect. It required not the aid of Saturn and his race. Men would be foolish indeed, not to be certain, that, from the beginning of the world, rain fell from heaven, and the stars sent forth their beams, and the light shone, and the thunder roared, so that Jupiter, in whose hand ye place the thunder-bolt, did himself tremble at it. In like manner it must be conceived, that all kinds of fruit abounded, before the time of Bacchus, and Ceres, and Mi-

^a Imperfectum non potuit esse, quod perfecit omnia. The world, which at its first creation was formed perfect, so as to require no subsequent improvement.

nerva ; nay, even before the existence of the first man, whoever he was ; since nothing, which was devised for the support and maintenance of man, could be introduced after man himself. Besides, those deities are said to have discovered those necessaries of life, not to have created them : now that which is discovered, already exists : and that which was in existence must not be ascribed to him who discovered its use, but to him who made it ; for it was formed before it could be discovered. And if Bacchus is therefore a god, because he first shewed the use of the vine, Lucullus was hardly used, who first introduced the cherry out of Pontus into Italy, that he was not consecrated as the creator of a new fruit ; since he invented it, and shewed its use. If, therefore, the universe was originally ordained and destined for the due performance of certain offices, there is no pretence, on these grounds, for adopting the human into the divine nature ; since the stations and powers which ye attribute to them, were from the beginning such as they would have been, even if ye had not made them gods.

Ye have recourse, however, to another reason, asserting that their deification was intended as the reward of their merit ; assuming, I suppose, that the God, who deified them, excels in justice, so as to dispense so magnificent a reward neither without consideration, nor upon unworthy objects, nor with undue profusion. I should wish, there-

fore, to enumerate their merits, and see whether they are of such a nature as to raise them to heaven, and not rather to sink them to the bottom of Tartarus, which ye and many others affirm to be the place of infernal punishments. For to that place are usually sent the impious, those who have committed incest with parents or sisters, adulterers, ravishers of virgins, corruptors of youth; men who commit violence, or murder, or theft; those who deceive, or are like any of those gods of yours, not one of whom ye can prove to be free from such vices or crimes, unless ye deny that he was once a man. But since ye cannot pretend to deny that they were men, ·they are also branded with such marks, as prevent us from believing that they should afterwards be made gods. For, if ye preside on your judgment seats, for the purpose of punishing crimes like these—if every one of you, who is upright, avoids all intercourse, conversation, or society with men of such infamous and base character,—and yet that supreme God, whom ye suppose, raised men like these to partake of his majesty,—why do ye condemn, in men, the qualities, which ye adore in your gods? Your administration of justice is a reflection upon heaven. Ye ought to deify all your vilest offenders, to please your gods. Their honour is involved in the consecration of their fellows.

But, to dwell no longer upon their unworthiness, I will suppose that they were honest and spotless and good. Yet how many far better men have ye left in the shades below? Men celebrated, for instance, as Socrates, for wisdom; Aristides, for his integrity; Themistocles, for his valour; Alexander, for his magnanimity; Polycrates, for his good fortune; Croesus, for his riches; Demosthenes, for his eloquence? Which of those, whom ye have made gods, was more distinguished for gravity and wisdom, than Cato; for justice, and military skill, than Scipio; for grandeur of soul, than Pompey; for success, than Sylla; for wealth, than Crassus; for eloquence, than Cicero? How much more worthily would your supreme God have waited to confer divinity upon those men, well knowing that these better men would exist. But we are to suppose he hastened, and once for all shut the gates of heaven, and now blushes, when he sees so many far better men murmuring in the shades below.

CHAPTER XII.

I SHALL pursue these observations no further, well knowing that I can truly shew what they are not, by setting forth what they really are. Now, in the persons of your gods, I perceive nothing but the names of certain men long since dead; I hear nothing but fables; I recognise only sacred rites founded on fables. And, as for the images themselves, I discover nothing but the mothers and sisters,^a as it were, of vessels and common utensils, or things, which, by the act of consecration, and the transforming power of art, change their destination with those vessels and utensils. Yet even this dedication is not unaccompanied with insult and sacrilege, in the very act itself; so that we, who are punished principally on account of the gods, may derive some consolation from the reflection, that they themselves under-

^a Nihil amplius deprehendo quàm matres sorores esse vasculorum, &c.

The images of your worship are formed of the same material, and are equally worthless, with your most ordinary vessels. Compare Isaiah XLIV. 16, 17.

went similar treatment, in the act of fabrication. If ye impale the Christians upon crosses, and stakes, every image of a god hath been first constructed upon a cross and stake, and plastered with cement. The body of your God is first dedicated upon a gibbet. If ye tear the bodies of Christians with your nails; your hatchets, and planes, and files are more unmercifully used upon all the members of your gods. If we lay our heads upon the block; your deities have no heads, before the lead, and the solder, and the rivets are applied. If we are exposed to the beasts; those animals are the same, which ye make the constant attendants on Bacchus, Cybele, and Ceres. If we are burned in the fire; the substance, of which they are composed, was first submitted to the same trial. If we are condemned to the mines; thence come they, whom ye believe to be gods.^b If we are banished into islands; an island is the favourite spot for the birth or death of every god. If this constitutes divinity, those who are punished are consecrated; to be condemned is to be deified. But, in good truth, your gods are as unconscious of the insults, thus offered to them in their fabrication, as they are of the worship, which is paid to them. "Impious assertions!" I hear you exclaim—"sacrilegious insult!" But

^b Gods of silver or gold, or marble. Compare c. 39. *Puto autem et hæ ipse materiæ de metallis Cæsarum veniunt.*

however great may be your rage and fury against us, ye at the same time approve of a Seneca, who inveighs at greater length and with greater bitterness against your superstition. If, then, we refuse to adore statues and images cold as death, the real nature of which birds and mice and spiders well understand,^c are we not rather worthy of praise than blame, for rejecting an acknowledged error? For how can we seem to injure those, whom we assuredly know to be nothing in the world?^d That, which is not, can be in no way affected by that which is.

^c Compare Baruch vi. 19. Minucius Felix, Octavius, c. 24. Quanta vero de diis vestris animalia muta naturaliter judicant? Mures, hirundines, milvi, non sentire eos sciunt, norunt; inculcant, insident, ac nisi abigatis, in ipso dei ore nidificant. Araneæ verò faciem ejus intexunt, et ipso capite sua fila suspendunt.

^d 1 Cor. viii. 4.

C H A P T E R XIII.

IN our estimation, however, ye say, they are gods. If so, how impious and sacrilegious and irreligious are ye proved to be towards these gods, in neglecting those, whose existence ye believe, destroying the objects of your fear, and insulting those, whose rights ye defend. Judge, yourselves, whether I speak truth or not. In the first place, since some of you worship one god, and some another, ye undoubtedly offend those whom ye do not worship: ye cannot prefer one without offering an insult to others; nor choose one, without rejecting another. Ye despise, therefore, those whom ye reject, and have no fear of so offending them. For, as we have before noticed, the condition of every god depended upon the estimation in which the Senate held him. He was no god, if the men, who deliberated upon the question, determined against his claim, and, by refusing to admit him, condemned him. As for your family

gods, which ye call Lares, ye treat them, as other household articles, with arbitrary power, by pledging, or selling them, or by changing a statue of Saturn or Minerva into the basest utensils, whenever it is battered or worn out with the length of service paid to it, or when any one finds his domestic distress a more powerful deity than his household gods. Ye publicly commit a like outrage against your public gods, whom ye expose in catalogues, and sell by auction. The Capitol and the herb-market are sold in the same manner.* The divinity of your gods itself is put up to sale by the same voice of the crier, at the same appointed place, under the same inspection of the Quæstor. Estates, however, liable to a tax are on that account less valuable; the persons of men who are subject to tribute are less noble; for all these are marks of servitude. But your gods are the more holy, the greater the tribute is, to which they are subject; or rather, those who are most holy, are most heavily taxed. Their majesty is made a source of gain. Religion goes round the taverns begging. Ye demand payment for entering the temple, and for a place at festivals. No one can become acquainted with the gods for nothing; access to them is purchased.

* The revenue arising from the temples was let by public contract, in the same manner as the tolls arising from the markets. Compare Tertullian, *Ad Nationes*, I. c. 10.

What do ye for their honour, more than for your dead? The temples and altars are precisely the same. They have the same dress and ornaments upon their statues. The age, the profession, the occupation of the dead man are preserved in his effigy; and it is the same with the god. What difference is there in the feast of Jupiter, and in that made for aged men at a funeral?^b between the vessel, in which wine is poured out in sacrifices, and that with which libations are made to the dead; between an augur, who predicts by observation of the entrails, and an embalmer? for he performs the office of an augur to the dead. But ye consistently enough confer the honour of divinity upon your dead emperors, since ye ascribe it to them in their lives. Your gods will feel deeply indebted to you, and be delighted that those who have ruled even over them, are put upon a level with them. But when ye introduce Larentina,^c a common prostitute,—I should have preferred, at all events, Lais or Phryne,—among such goddesses as Juno, and Ceres and Diana; when ye

^b Quo differt ab epulo jovis silicernium? a simpulo obba, ab aruspice pollinctor? nam et aruspex mortuis appetet.

Tertullian sarcastically compares the different offices paid to Jupiter in his dotage, with those which accompanied funerals.

^c Larentina, or Larentia, was said to have been the nurse of Romulus. Tertullian, *Ad Nationes*, II. c. 10. Lactantius, *Lib. i. 20.*

honour Simon Magus with a statue,^d and an inscription, bearing the title of holy god, when ye introduce one of the infamous pages^e of the court into the council of the gods; although your ancient gods could boast of no more noble origin, yet they will think ye use them ill, by conferring a dignity upon others, to which they conceive their antiquity gives them a prescriptive right.

^d See Justin Martyr's *Apology*, c. 34.

^e Antinous.

CHAPTER XIV.

I WILL not observe upon your religious rites, nor mention the shameful manner in which ye perform your sacrifices, slaying for that purpose any animals which are emaciated, or rotten, or diseased, and cutting off from the fat and entire carcases the useless head and hoofs, which even at home ye would have thrown to the dogs, or given to slaves; and place upon the altar of Hercules not a third part of the tenth, which is his share. In all this, I rather praise your wisdom, in reserving something from that which would otherwise be totally lost. But I will turn to your literature, whence ye derive your instruction in prudence and the liberal sciences; what absurdities are there found? I read of gods, who fought like pairs of gladiators, for Trojans and Greeks: of Venus being wounded by an arrow, directed by a human hand, in her anxiety to save her son Æneas, who was on the point of being slain by the same man, Diomede: of Mars almost worn out, by an imprisonment of thirteen months in chains; of

Jupiter, who was freed by the aid of some monster, (Briareus) when he was in danger of suffering the same treatment from the immortals; and, at one time, weeping for the fate of Sarpedon, at another, reviving his passion for Juno, his sister, by a disgraceful enumeration of his former adulteries, in none of which he was so enamoured.^a After this, what poet is there who hath not followed the prince of poets, in calumniating the gods? One gives Apollo, to keep the sheep of King Admetus: another lets out Neptune, to build walls for Lao-medon. There is also the celebrated lyric poet, Pindar,^b who declares Esculapius to have been deservedly struck by lightning, for his avarice, in exercising the art of medicine to a bad purpose. If this was Jupiter's thunder, he acted ill; with injustice towards his grandson, and with envy towards the inventor of so noble an art. Among men so very religious, these facts, if true, ought never to have been betrayed: if false, ought never to have been invented. Even the writers of tragedy and comedy are not more cautious; but take for their subject the miseries, or the crimes, of some of your gods. I say nothing of your philosophers, being content to mention Socrates, who, out of contempt for your gods, used to swear by an oak, a goat, and a dog. But, ye will say, Socrates was put to death, for destroying the authority of

^a Il. Ξ. 314

^b Pythia iii. 96. Antist. 3.

the gods. So indeed he was, for, aforetime, as ever, truth is hated. Yet when the Athenians afterwards repented of their error, punished the accusers of Socrates, and placed a golden statue of him in a temple, the repeal of the sentence restored the testimony of Socrates to its original importance. Besides this, Diogenes turned Hercules into ridicule ; and the Roman Cynic Varro introduces three hundred Joves, or Jupiters, without heads.

CHAPTER XV.

ALL your inventors of wanton tales minister to your pleasures, by disgraceful stories of your gods. Examine the most admired beauties of your Lentuli and Hostilii; in the jokes and tricks which are there displayed, are the actors or the gods the subjects of your derision? When, for instance, ye laugh at an adulterous Anubis, at a Moon of the male sex, at Diana being flogged, at the reading of the will of Jupiter after his death, and at three half-starved Hercules. Besides, your dramatic literature describes all their most disgraceful actions. Ye are delighted to hear the Sun grieving for his son Phaeton, cast down from heaven; ye blush not to hear Cybele sighing for a shepherd, who rejects her with disdain: and ye tolerate the enumeration of all the infamous tales attributed to Jupiter, and the judgment which a shepherd passed upon Juno, Venus, and Minerva. Again, how disgraceful is it, that the mask, which is formed to represent one of your gods, should be worn by a man of infamous and notorious character; that one personally dissolute, and with his frame rendered effeminate for the purpose, should represent sometimes a Mi-

nerva, and sometimes an Hercules. Do ye not applaud, while the majesty of your gods is thus insulted, and their divinity abused? Ye are, however, I presume, more scrupulous in your arenas, where the gods are introduced dancing in the midst of the blood of the gladiators, and the pollution of capital punishments, affording the plot and history, in the course of which these wretched victims may be put to death; not to mention that the culprits themselves sometimes support the character of some of your gods. We have formerly seen a man mutilated in the character of Atys, your god from Pessinum; and one, who personated Hercules, burnt alive. We have joined in the laugh, at the cruel entertainments, with which ye beguile the middle of the day, when Mercury went about to try with a red-hot caduceus, whether the bodies were really dead. We have seen also Pluto, the brother of Jupiter, dragging off the corpses of the gladiators, with a hammer in his hand.

But who can enumerate every particular of this kind? If such representations injure the honour of the divine character, if they lay its majesty in the dust, they infer a contempt of the gods, both in those who act in any thing of the kind, and in those for whose entertainment they are performed.

But, ye will say, this is merely in sport. If, however, I should add, what your consciences

would admit to be equally true, that adulterous assignations are made in your temples; that before your very altars, the violation of chastity is contrived; that acts of the grossest kind are usually committed in the very houses of the ministers, and priests of the temples; while the garlands, and ornaments, and purple vestments of the priesthood are still upon them, and the incense is still burning; I fear your gods would have more reason to complain of you, than of the Christians themselves.

At all events, all those, who are found guilty of sacrilege, are of your religion: for the Christians never enter your temples, even in the day time: had they entered them to worship, perhaps they too would have been led to rob them. What, then, is likely to be the object of adoration to men, who refuse to worship objects such as these? From this very circumstance it may be inferred, that they worship the truth; since they have desisted from worshipping falsehood. It is unlikely that they should again fall into an error, which they had ceased to commit, as soon as they came to the knowledge of themselves.

I would have you, then, first weigh this fact attentively, and then proceed to learn all the particulars of our religion, after I shall first have refuted certain false prejudices.

CHAPTER XVI.

SOME of you have adopted an absurd notion, that an asses head is our God. Cornelius Tacitus first promulgated this report. In the fifth book of his History,* he begins his description of the Jewish war with an account of the origin of that people; and, in discussing this question, offers his own opinion respecting their name and religion. He states, that the Jews were liberated, or, as he conceives, expelled, from Egypt, and wandered in the extended plains of Arabia, where there was the greatest scarcity of water: while they were suffering from intense thirst, they observed certain wild asses proceeding, as they imagined, to drink after pasture. Following their guidance, they discovered a spring, and, in commemoration of this benefit, consecrated the head of an animal of the same kind. Hence, I imagine, hath arisen the erroneous notion, that in our religion, which is conceived to be closely connected with that of the Jews, the same image

* Tacitus, Hist. v. 3.

is worshipped. Yet the same Cornelius Tacitus—whose loquacity in falsehood agrees but ill with his name—in another part of the same history^b relates, that Cneius Pompeius, when he had taken Jerusalem, and entered the Temple, to witness the secret rites of the Jewish religion, found there no image at all. If, however, any object represented in a bodily form had been worshipped, it would surely have been found in the most holy place ; and so much the more, as the worship, however absurd, was in no danger of the intrusion of strangers : since none but the priests were allowed to enter ; and a veil hid that part of the temple, even from the sight of all other men. Ye, however, will not deny, that of all kinds of beasts of burden, and not merely the heads, but the whole bodies of geldings, with their goddess Epona, are objects of adoration to you. This, I suppose, is our crime, that among the worshippers of cattle, and beasts of all kind, we adore an ass only.

Those, again, who conceive that we pay too much honour to the cross, are themselves our fellow-worshippers.^c If adoration is paid to any wood,

^b Tacitus, Hist. v. 9.

^c This passage has been alleged, to prove that, in Tertullian's time, some kind of worship was paid to the cross. It is plain, from the context, that it proves just the reverse. In this part of his Apology, he is refuting several calumnious or mistaken charges, which were brought against the Christians; and he applies to each of them the argument *ad hominem*, of which

the particular shape signifies nothing, provided the material is the same: the form is of no importance, if that be regarded as the substance of a god. But in what way can the Athenian Minerva and the

which he was rather fond. He endeavours to shew, that, even if they had been all true, the worshippers of false gods were equally exposed to blame.

The first calumny is, that an asses head was the object of their worship; he shews this to be unfounded; and then retorts upon the accusers of the Christians, that all kinds of cattle were worshipped by the pagans.

The next accusation is that brought by those who imagined the Christians to be worshippers of the cross. (*Sed et qui crucis nos religiosos putat, consecraneus erit noster.*) And this too he answers, by shewing that, even if it were true, the heathens also worshipped images of wood; and that the Christians had, even on that erroneous supposition, an advantage over them, in worshipping a whole and perfect god, and not a mere block, which was part of a cross.

(*Nos, si fortè, integrum et totum Deum colimus.*) The phrase, *si fortè*, is a favourite expression of Tertullian, when he repels an accusation, or retorts it upon his opponents.

He disposes of the other charges, the worship of the sun, and of a deity of monstrous form, by arguments of the same kind.

There is no doubt, that, in the age of Tertullian, great respect was paid to the sign of the cross. A well known passage in his *Treatise de Coronâ Militis*, c. 3. shews, that the sign of the cross was used, not only in baptism, but on numerous other occasions, as a sign of the faith in Christ crucified. “*Ad omnem progressum atque promotum, ad omnem aditum, et exitum, ad vestitum, ad calciatum, ad lavacra, ad mensas, ad lumina, ad cubilia, ad sedilia, quæcunque nos conversatio exercet, frontem crucis signaculo terimus.*” This respect, however, was very different from adoration. Minucius Felix, *Octavius*, c. 29. who imitates Justin Martyr, *Apol.* c. 72. and this passage of Tertullian’s *Apology*, expressly states, that the cross was no object of worship.

Pharian Ceres be distinguished from the wood of a cross, when each is formed of a rough block and unfinished timber? Every stake, which is erected, is but part of a cross; we, at all events, worship a whole and perfect deity. We have before shewn,⁴ that the very images of your gods are obtained by models, formed upon a cross-like frame. Besides this, ye adore the goddess of victory, while a cross is made the foundation, on which your trophies are hung. The whole religion of your camp teaches your soldiers to adore their standards, to swear by them, to prefer them to all other gods. All those series of images, suspended around your standards, are so many necklaces to a cross; all those pendant hangings of your standards and ensigns are but the robes of a cross. I admire your care: ye would not consecrate simple and unadorned crosses.

Others, again, with more probability and reason, believe that the Sun is the object of our adoration. If this be the case, we are joined with the Persians, although we do not adore its image painted upon a banner; since we have the Sun itself with us, wherever we go, set in the heavens as in a shield. This suspicion, however, hath arisen from our well

Cruces etiam nec colimus nec optamus. Vos planè qui ligneos deos consecratis, cruces ligneos, ut deorum vestrorum partes, forsitan adoratis. Nam et signa ipsa, et vexilla castorum, quid aliud quām inauratae cruces sunt et ornatæ? Tropæa vestra victoria non tantum simplicis crucis faciem, verū et affixi hominis imitantur.

⁴ c. 12.

known custom of turning towards the East, when we pray.^{*} And many even of yourselves, out of an affectation of sometimes adoring the heavenly bodies also, move your lips towards the quarter, in

* The custom of turning to the East in prayer was very ancient in the Christian Church. The East was considered an emblem of Christ, probably from such passages as Zech. iii. 8. vi. 12. Mal. iv. 2. Luke i. 78. Clemens Alexandrinus, Stromat. vii. p. 856. considers the custom to be significative of the rising of the Sun of righteousness upon the benighted mind. Ἐπεὶ δὲ γενεθλίου ημέρας εἰκὼν ἡ ἀνατολή, κάκειθεν τὸ φῶς αἴξεται ἐκ σκότου λάμψαν τὸ πρώτον ἀλλὰ καὶ τοῖς ἐν ἀγνοίᾳ κυλινδουμένοις ἀνέτειλε γνώσεως ἀληθείας ημέρα, κατὰ λόγον τοῦ ηλίου πρὸς τὴν ἑωθίνην ἀνατολὴν αἱ εὐχαὶ.

Augustin (De Sermone Domini, Lib. ii. c. 5.) refers to the same custom; Quum ad orationes stamus, ad orientem convertimur, unde cælum surgit: non tanquam ibi sit Deus, et quasi cæteras mundi partes deseruerit, qui ubique præsens non locorum spatiis sed majestate potentiae; sed ut admoneatur animus ad naturam excellentiorem se convertere, id est, ad Dominum.

Many other reasons, which might have led to this observance, are adduced from various early authorities, by Bingham, Eccles. Ant. Book xiiii. c. 8. 15. Bingham is inclined to think that it arose from a ceremony in baptism, in which the convert, in renouncing the devil, turned his face to the West, as the region of darkness, and, in declaring his faith in Christ, turned to the East. Book xi. c. 7: 4. This, however, seems to have been rather a particular instance of the general custom, than its origin.

The same veneration for the East caused Churches to be usually built, in very early times, with the principal entrance to the West, and the Altar towards the East. Tertullian seems to allude to this position of places of worship, as well as to the attitude of the worshippers; Advers. Valent. c. 3. Nostræ columbae etiam domus simplex, in editis semper et apertis, et ad lucem. Amat figura Spiritus sancti Orientem, Christi figuram.

which the sun rises. In like manner if we do observe Sunday, as a day of festivity, not from any worship which we pay to the Sun, but from a very different reason, we are, in that custom, closely allied to such of you as set apart the Saturday for a day of ease and feasting ; although, even in that, they deviate from the Jewish custom, which they have ignorantly followed.

But a new calumny hath recently been published, in the city of Rome, against the God whom we worship ; where a vile wretch, who had for money exposed himself with criminals to fight with wild beasts, carried about a picture with this inscription, The God of the Christians, ONOKOITIE. This figure was painted with asses ears, having a hoof upon one foot ; carrying a book in his hand, and wearing a robe. We smiled at the absurdity of the name, and the extravagance of the figure. But the idolatrous heathen ought at once to fall down and worship the two-fold divinity ; since they have already received into the number of their

The few exceptions to this position of the Churches, which are occasionally found, shew only that the custom was not general. There is one remarkable instance, in the splendid Church erected at Tyre by Paulinus, the Bishop, at the beginning of the fourth century. The entrance of that magnificent edifice was to the East, and the Altar in the center. (Eusebius, H. E. x. 14. pp. 311. D. 312. B.) Socrates (H. E. v. 22. p. 235. D.) mentions that the Church at Antioch in Syria was placed in a direction opposite to that which was usual, having the Altar towards the West, instead of the East.

gods those who had the head of a dog and of a lion united, and others horned like a buck, or a ram, and with loins like a goat, and with their lower extremities like a serpent, or with wings upon their back or feet.

I have mentioned this absurdity, although there was no necessity for noticing it, that I might not incur the imputation of purposely omitting any rumour against the Christians. Having then cleared away all these charges, we will proceed to the proof of what our religion really is.

CHAPTER XVII.

THE object of our worship is One God, who made out of nothing the whole frame of this universe, furnished with all the elements, and bodies, and spirits, by his word, which commanded ; by his wisdom, which ordained ; by his power, which ruled ; for the glory of his own majesty ; whence also the Greeks denominated the world by a word,* which implies order and beauty. God is invisible, although plainly seen ; incomprehensible by touch, although represented to us by his gracious revelation ; inappreciable, although all our senses bear testimony to his existence. Hence he is the true God, since he is immensely great. But that which can be seen by the ordinary senses, or touched, or defined, is less than the eyes, by which it is discerned, and the hands, by the contact of which it is defiled, and the senses, by which it is discovered. But that which is immense is known to itself alone. This it is which causes God to become intelligible, although he cannot be fully understood. The im-

* κόσμος.

mensity of his being presents him to our minds as at once known and unknown. And in this, in short, consists the guilt of those who will not know Him, of whom they cannot be ignorant. Would ye have this proved from his manifold and great works, by which we are surrounded, and sustained, and filled, sometimes with delight, and sometimes with alarm? Would ye have this proved, from the testimony of the soul itself, which, although weighed down and confined by its prison, the body, although surrounded by evil customs, although enervated by lusts and passions, although enslaved to false gods, yet, when it doth come to itself as it were from intoxication, or sleep, or some grievous sickness, from which it is restored to its natural state of health, then speaks of God by this name only, because it is the proper name of the true God. Then "the Great God," "the Good God," and "What God shall give," is the language in every one's mouth. In like manner, the ordinary expressions, "God knows," "I leave it to God," and "God will restore it to me," all testify that He is the universal judge.^b O glorious testimony of the

^b Tertullian uses the same argument, in his *Treatise de Resurrectione Carnis*, c. 3. Utar ergo et sententiâ Platonis alicujus pronunciantis, Omnis anima immortalis. Utar et conscientiâ populi, contestantis Deum deorum. Utar et reliquis communibus sensibus, qui Deum judicem prædicant; Deus videt; et, Deo commendo. He uses the same language, and argues upon it; *De Testimonio Animæ*, cc. 2, 3, 4, 5. He is followed

soul, naturally impressed with the truths of Christianity! And when she gives utterance to these sentiments, her eyes are directed not to the Capitol, but to heaven. For she knows, that there is the habitation of the living God, that He is the author of her being, and there the place whence she came down.

followed by Minucius Felix, *Octavius*, c. 18. p. 49. *Quid, quod omnium de isto habeo consensum? Audio vulgus, cum ad cœlum manus tendunt, nihil aliud quam Deum dicunt: et, Deus magnus est, et, Deus verus est: et, si Deus dederit. Vulgi iste naturalis sermo est, an Christiani confitentis oratio?*

CHAPTER XVIII.

BUT, in order that we might approach to a more full and clear knowledge, both of Himself, and of His disposition and will towards man, God hath further given us his written word ; that all, who desire, may enquire respecting God ; and gradually proceed from enquiry to knowledge, and from knowledge to belief, and from belief to obedience. For God, from the beginning, sent forth into the world men, whose righteousness and innocence qualified them to understand, and make known His will ; and poured down upon them his Holy Spirit, by which they were enabled to declare, that there is One God, who created all things, and formed man of the dust of the earth :—for he is the true Prometheus,^{*}—who ordered the world to be governed by a certain course of time and seasons ; and afterwards gave signs of his majesty in judgment, by water, and by fire ; who established laws,

* Tertullian makes the same allusion, *Adv. Marcion.* i. c. i. Quidni? Penes quem verus Prometheus, Deus omnipotens, blasphemias lancinatur.

which ye either know not, or forsake, for obtaining his favour; and hath prepared rewards for those who observe and keep them; for, at the end of the world, he will by his judgment restore his worshippers to eternal life, but will condemn the wicked to endless streams of fire; all who have ever lived being raised from the dead, and restored to their bodies, and judged, every man according to his works. We too, as well as yourselves, once derided all this. We were of your party: for Christians are made, not born so. Those preachers, of whom we speak, were called prophets, from their office of foretelling the future. Their words, and the signs which they performed, as proofs of their divine mission, still remain in the treasures of the Scriptures, and are now no longer hidden. The most learned of the Ptolemies, surnamed Philadelphus, was a prince who made the most diligent search into all branches of literature. Being desirous of imitating, as I imagine, the fame of Pisis-tratus in the formation of a library, he collected from all quarters such books as had acquired celebrity for their antiquity or curiosity. Among these, at the suggestion of Demetrius Phalereus, the most celebrated grammarian of the age, to whom he had entrusted the care of his library, he procured from the Jews also their Scriptures written in their own native language, and kept in their possession alone: for the prophets had always been raised up among

the Jews, and had spoken to them, who, from the love which God bore to their forefathers, were His peculiar people. Those, who are now Jews, were formerly Hebrews; whence the Scriptures were written in the Hebrew character, and in the Hebrew language. Lest, however, the contents of these volumes should remain unknown, the Jews sent to Ptolemy also seventy-two interpreters, whom Menedemus the philosopher, the asserter of a Divine Providence, treats with great respect, as agreeing with him in opinion. Aristeas also assures us of this fact. Thus Ptolemy left these documents plainly translated into the Greek language. At this very day, in the temple of Serapis, the library of Ptolemy is in existence, with the Hebrew copy itself. The Jews read it openly; it is a privilege to which their tribute entitles them.^b All con-

^b Vectigalis libertas.

Some have concluded, from this passage, that the tribute alluded to was paid solely for the privilege of reading the Scriptures in the original Hebrew; that the Jews at first held the version of the Septuagint in the greatest estimation, but afterwards rejected it, because it was believed to favour Christianity more than the original Hebrew: and that they were therefore obliged to purchase the privilege of reading the Hebrew Scriptures every sabbath. There is, however, no trace of such an impost; and it can scarcely be believed that Adrian felt any interest in the question whether the Jews read their Scriptures in Hebrew or Greek. The tribute here alluded to was, probably, the half shekel which the Jews paid, to secure the public exercises of their religion, of which reading the law was one.

stantly go thither every sabbath. Whoever hears those Scriptures, will discover what God is: and whoever studies to comprehend him, will be compelled to believe in him also.

The author of the Apostolical Constitutions (Lib. vi. cc. 24, 25.) asserts, without foundation, that, under the Romans, the Jews were not permitted to use their ordinances: and that they were forbidden by the law of Moses (Deut. xii. 14.) to erect an altar in any place but Jerusalem, and to read the law without the bounds of Judea. The last assertion appears to have arisen from following the erroneous Septuagint Version of Amos iv. 5. *Kai ἀνέγυσταν ἐξω νόμον.* See L. Cappellus Critica Sacra, Lib. iv. c. ii. 23.

CHAPTER XIX.

THESE records, then, have the greatest claim to our attention, by the authority which is due to their high antiquity; and, even among yourselves, it is as it were a part of your religion to pay regard to any observance in proportion to its age. Now the writings of one only of the Prophets, Moses, which are in themselves a treasure of all the Jewish religion, and consequently of our own, are by many ages superior in antiquity to your most ancient records. They surpass writing of all kinds, upon whatever fabric or substance, and the very earliest origin, and rude beginnings of all the most ancient inscriptions: nay, they are prior to almost all nations and distinguished cities, to the earliest traces of history and tradition, even to the invention of pictorial characters, which were long the only records of events: and they surpass—what are of far less antiquity—your gods themselves, their temples, oracles, and sacred rites. If ye have ever heard mention made of Moses, he was contemporary

with the Argive Inachus: and wanted but seven years to be four centuries before Danaus, who is himself the most ancient of any among yourselves: he lived about a thousand years before the death of Priam. I should have good authority for placing him full five hundred years before the time of Homer.

Although the other prophets also are later than Moses, yet the last of them are earlier than your first philosophers, lawgivers, and historians. We could easily give reasons sufficient to prove this to you, if it were not beyond our present design: the task would not be difficult, although tedious. It would be necessary to sit down quietly, with all the leisure and means for computation; and to open the archives of the most ancient nations, the Egyptians, Chaldeans, and Phoenicians; to call upon those natives of the several nations, who furnish us with information, such as Manetho, among the Egyptians, and Berossus among the Chaldeans. We should be obliged to have recourse to Iromus the Phoenician, king of Tyre; and to the followers of these ancient testimonies, Ptolemy of Mendes, Menander the Ephesian, Demetrius Phalereus, King Juba, Appion, Thallus, and Josephus, who wrote the history and antiquities of his own countrymen the Jews, and either confirms or refutes the more ancient writers. It would also be necessary to compare the historical records of the

Greeks, and to notice the time when each event took place, in order that the connection of the different periods might be made apparent, and the order of all the facts be clearly set forth. It would be necessary to digress into the history, and literature, of the whole world. However, we have in some degree introduced a part of this proof, by touching upon the manner, in which it might be effected. But it will be better to defer all this, for the present, lest either our want of time should prevent us from following the enquiry to a sufficient extent, or, if we followed it, we should wander too widely from our present subject.

C H A P T E R XX.

WE shall now make more than amends for deferring the consideration of this question, by proving the majesty and authority of Scripture, if not its antiquity; we shall establish its divine origin, even if a doubt should still remain respecting its age. This requires us not to search long, nor at any great distance: the grounds of proof are obvious, namely, the state of the world, the history of all ages, and the general course of events. Whatever is now done was foretold: whatever is now seen, was first heard. If earthquakes swallow up cities, if islands are invaded by the sea; if foreign and domestic wars distract states; if kingdom rises up against kingdom; if there are famine, and pestilence, and slaughters, in divers places; if the wild beasts of the mountains lay waste many regions; if the humble are exalted, and the lofty are laid low; if justice is rare, and iniquity abounds; if the regard for every good and wholesome discipline waxes cold; if even the times and seasons vary from their appointed order; and the natural

form of animals is violated, by the production of monsters and prodigies ; all these have been predicted by the providence of God. While we suffer these calamities, we read of them : when we recognise them as the objects of prophecy, the truth of the Scriptures, which predict them, is proved. The daily fulfilment of prophecy is, surely, a full proof of revelation. Hence, then, we have a well-founded belief in many things which are yet to come, namely, the confidence arising from our knowledge of the past ; because some events, still future, were foretold at the same time with others which are past. The voice of prophecy speaks alike of each ; the Scriptures record them equally ; the same spirit taught the prophets both. In the predictions, there is no distinction of time : if there be any such distinction, it is made by men ; while the gradual course of time makes that present, which was future, and that past, which was present. How can we, then, be blamed for believing also what is predicted respecting the future, when our confidence is founded upon the fulfilment of prophecies relating to the present and the past.

CHAPTER XXI.

SINCE, however, we have declared our religion to be founded upon those most ancient writings of the Jews,—although almost every one knows, and we acknowledge, that Christianity is of recent origin, having sprung up in the reign of Tiberius,—there may, perchance, at this point arise an objection, that we are desirous of sheltering ourselves from some of the odium which attaches to us, under the shadow of a religion which hath been long known, and is, at all events, tolerated: whereas, besides the very different degrees of antiquity in the Jewish and Christian faith, we do not agree with them, either in abstinence from certain kinds of food, or in the observance of certain festivals, or in the peculiar rite of circumcision, or in the name which we profess; in all of which there ought to be no difference, if we were subject to the same God. Besides, every one of you considers Christ to have been a man, such as the Jews believe him to have been; whence the error might the more easily arise, that we worship some human being.

We are not, however, ashamed of Christ; since we count it our highest privilege to be accused and condemned in his name, nor are our opinions respecting God different from those of the Jews.

It will be necessary then, to speak a few words of Christ, as God.

The people of the Jews were so highly favoured of God, on account of the remarkable justice and faith of their forefathers; whence their numbers were multiplied, and their kingdom flourished, and increased; and so great were their privileges, that the voice of God which instructed them, taught them how to obtain his favour, and avoid his anger. Yet their present condition, even without their own confession, sufficiently proves, with what vain confidence in the merits of their ancestors they were urged to madness, and driven profanely to desert their ordinances. They are dispersed and vagabond, wandering as exiles from their native soil throughout the whole world; without either man or God for their king, and not even permitted as strangers to set foot upon their own land.* Now all the sacred scriptures, with one voice, predicted that this would be their condition; that, in the last days, God would gather together from every nation, and people, and country, more faithful servants, to whom he would impart a fuller portion of his grace, in proportion to the

* See Justin Martyr, c. 62. and note (x) p. 245.

measure which the founder of this faith should be capable of receiving. The author, then, and master of this grace and this religion, who was to enlighten the world, and lead the human race in the way of salvation, was predicted as the Son of God, yet not born in such a manner as to be ashamed of the title of a Son, or of his descent from his Father. In your fables, Jupiter is represented to have been the father of some of your heroes, by incest with a sister, or by violence committed upon a daughter, or by adultery, in the form of a serpent, or of a bull, or of a swan, or of a shower of gold. The true Son of God was born in no such manner; he had no mother, after the flesh, even in lawful matrimony, for she who bare him had not known man.

I will first, however, declare what was the nature of his substance; and then the manner of his nativity will plainly appear. We have already declared, that God created this Universe of the world by his Word, and Reason, and Power. Even your philosophers agree in ascribing the creation of the Universe to the Logos, that is, to the Word or Reason. For Zeno asserts that this was the maker, who formed every thing in its order; and he called it Fate, and God, and the Mind of Jupiter, and Necessity, the compulsory cause of all things. Cleanthes ascribes all this to the Spirit, which, he declares, pervades

the Universe. Now we also consider the Spirit to be the proper substance of the Word, and Reason, and Power, by which we have declared that God made all things; since it was by the Word that he prophesied, by reason that he ordained, and by power that he perfected all things. We have been taught, that he came forth from God, and was begotten by that procession, and so is the Son of God, and called God from the unity of his substance: for God also is a spirit. Thus, when a ray of light issues from the sun, it is a part from the whole: but the sun will be in the ray of light, because it is a ray of the sun, and the substance is not separated, but extended. Thus, Spirit comes from Spirit, and God from God, as light is kindled from light.^b The matter, which is the origin, remains whole and unimpaired, although you should derive from it many other substances which transmit the same qualities. In the same manner, that which proceeds from God, is God, and the Son of God; and both are one. Thus a Spirit of a Spirit, and God of God, makes one different in order, not in number; in gradation, not in nature: it proceeds from its origin, but is not separated from it. That emanation, therefore, of the Divinity, as was always before predicted,

^b Compare Tertullian Adv. Praxeum, c. 8. Protulit enim Deus Sermonem, quemadmodum etiam Paracletus docet, sicut radix fruticem, et fons fluvium, et sol radium.

being sent down upon a virgin, and in her womb made flesh, was born God united with man. His flesh, animated with the Spirit, was nourished, grew up, spake, taught, acted, and was Christ.

Ye can surely have no difficulty in receiving this, for a time, even as a fable, for it is like your own; while we shew in what manner the true character of Christ is demonstrated. Those amongst you, who devised fables of a similar nature, for the destruction of the truth, well knew this. The Jews also, to whom the prophets foretold that Christ should come, knew this. For even to this day they look for his coming; and one of the greatest points of controversy between us and them is, that they believe not that he is come already. For since the Scriptures speak of two coming of Christ,^c—the first which he hath already fulfilled, by appearing in the humility of the human nature, and the second, which is now at hand, when, at the consummation of all things, he shall be manifested in the sublimity of his divine power,—they, who understood not his first coming, considered it to be the same as his second coming, which they conceive to be more clearly predicted. For their guilt well deserved this punishment, that they should not understand his first coming, inasmuch as, had they understood it, they would have believed; and had they believed, they would have

^c Tertullian refers to the same subject, *Adv. Judæos.* c. 14.

been saved. They themselves read the scripture in which it is written, that they were deprived of wisdom and knowledge, and of the use of their eyes and ears.^d

Since, then, they considered Christ, in consequence of his humility, to be a mere man, it naturally followed that they should regard him as a magician, in consequence of his præternatural power; when he cast out devils by a word, gave sight to the blind, cleansed the lepers, restored the palsied to strength, and, lastly, by a word raised the dead to life; when he ruled the very elements, calmed the storms, walked upon the sea, and shewed himself to be the Logos of God, that is, the original Word, the first-begotten, endued with divine power and with reason, and sustained by the Spirit.^e

But at his doctrine, by which the teachers and leaders of the Jews were condemned, they were so exasperated, especially when a great multitude were converted to him, that, at the last, by the urgency of their violence, they compelled Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor of Syria, before whom he had been brought, to give him up to them to be crucified. Christ himself had foretold that they would do so. But this, in itself, would have been

^d Isai. vi. 10.

^e In most editions, there are here added the words, eundem, qui verbo omnia et ficeret, et fecisset.

an inconsiderable fact, had not the prophets also of old predicted the same. Yet when he was crucified, he voluntarily gave up the ghost, with a word addressed to his heavenly Father; and thus anticipated the last office of the executioner. At the same moment, the mid-day was deprived of the sun which hid its light. Those who were ignorant that this also was predicted respecting Christ, thought, doubtless, that it was a natural eclipse, and when they could not account [for an eclipse of the sun at the time of the full moon,] they denied the fact; although ye have the occurrence related in your annals.^f

After that, the Jews took him down from the cross, and placed him in a sepulchre, which they carefully surrounded with a military guard, lest, since he had predicted that he would rise again from the dead, on the third day, his disciples coming secretly should escape their vigilance, and steal the body away. But, behold, on the third day, suddenly there was a great earthquake, and the stone which closed the sepulchre was rolled away; the guards were struck down with fear; and, without any of his disciples being there, there was nothing found in the tomb, but the clothes in which

^f Tertullian alludes, in like manner, to the miraculous darkness at the crucifixion, *Adv. Judæos*, c. 10. *Nam quod in passione ejus accidit, ut media dies tenebresceret, Amos Prophetæ annunciat, dicens, Et erit, inquit, in die illâ, dicit Dominus, occidet sol mediâ die;* &c. *Amos*, viii. 9.

he had been buried. Yet the chief of the Jews, whose interest it was to promulgate a falsehood, and recall the people from their belief in Christ, to be tributary and enslaved to them, declared that his disciples had stolen him away.

Yet Christ did not shew himself to all the people; lest the wicked should be compelled to forsake their error; and in order that faith, to which so high a reward was to be attached, should not be attained without difficulty. He remained, however, with some of his disciples in Galilee, a region of Judæa, for the space of forty days, teaching them what they were themselves to teach others. After this, having ordained them to the office of preaching the Gospel throughout the world, he was taken up into heaven, concealed in a cloud, in a manner far more real than that which such witnesses as Proculus report of Romulus, and your other kings.

Pilate, who in his conscience was persuaded of the innocence of Christ, sent a full account of all these transactions to Tiberius Cæsar.⁵ And even emperors would have believed in Christ, if either emperors were not necessary for conducting the affairs of this world, or Christians could also be emperors. His disciples also scattered throughout the world were obedient to the commands of God their master, and, confident in the faith, suffered many things from the Jews who persecuted them,

* Compare c. 5. p. 303. note (b).

and lastly shed their Christian blood in Rome, by the cruelty of Nero.

We will however shew you sufficient witnesses of the truth of Christ, those very gods which ye adore. It will be a great point, if I can so produce them as testimonies, that ye may embrace the Christian faith, by means of those who now persuade you to disbelieve the Christians. Meanwhile, this is the manner of our argument. We declare to you the origin of our religion and of our name, and who was the author of it.

Let no one, therefore, any longer bring against us those infamous accusations, or ascribe to our religion any other origin; since, in matters of faith, it is the highest impiety for any one to speak differently from the truth. For, from the moment that any one professes that he worships any other deity than the real object of his adoration, he denies that which he worships, he transfers his devotion to another; and, by such a change, ceases at once to worship the Being whom he denies. Now we declare, and openly profess in the midst of all your tortures; while torn and bleeding, we cry out, We worship God through Christ. Ye consider him to be a mere man. Suppose this were true, still it is through him, that God will have himself known and worshipped. In answer to the Jews, we say, that they have learned to worship God by the mediation of Moses; in answer to the Greeks, that

Orpheus upon the mountain Pieria, Musæus at Athens, Melampus at Argos, and Trophonius in Bœotia all introduced their religious ceremonies into their country. And with reference to yourselves, who are the masters of the world, Pompilius Numa was a man, although he loaded the Romans with the most burdensome superstitions. Surely then Christ may be permitted to set forth the divinity, which properly belongs to him. He did not, like Numa, reduce to civilization men yet rude and uncultivated, astonishing them by an enumeration of so great a multitude of fictitious gods, whose favour must be propitiated, but led to the sight and knowledge of the truth, men who were already polished, and led astray even by the errors of their mental cultivation. Examine, then, whether the divinity of Christ is real or not. If his claim to the divine character be such, that by knowledge of it a man is formed anew to every thing which is good, it follows, that all other pretended gods, which are discovered to be contrary to him, must be renounced as false; and, above all, those deities are by every means to be repudiated, which, hiding themselves under the names and appearances of dead men, endeavour to procure belief in their divine nature, by means of certain signs, and miracles and oracles.

CHAPTER XXII.

WE assert, then, that there are certain spiritual substances, the name of which is well known. Your philosophers acknowledge the existence of demons, for Socrates himself was guided by the counsel of one of them. This is plain; for he said that a demon attended him from his very youth, and constantly dissuaded him—and, so, doubtless, it did, from all good. All your poets are well acquainted with them. And even now, the uninstructed vulgar, in their imprecations, frequently call upon Satan, the chief of this evil race; and thus by the very terms which they use in cursing, betray what are the inward sentiments of their minds. Plato also denies not the existence of angels; and even those who profess the practice of magical arts confess the existence of both demons and angels. Now it is known from the holy Scriptures, in what manner from certain angels, who voluntarily corrupted themselves, there arose a still more depraved race,* condemned of

* Tertullian, in his *Treatise de Virginibus Velandis*, c. 7. refers to Gen. vi. 2. in proof that the angels married the virgin daughters

God together with the authors of their being, and with him whom we have spoken of as their chief. It will here be sufficient to explain the manner of their agency. Their ordinary occupation is the injury of man; as the malice of evil spirits from the beginning contrived the perdition of the human race. Hence they bring upon the body diseases and certain grievous accidents, and violently affect the mind with sudden and extraordinary passions. Their surprising subtilty and tenuity give them the facility of thus entering into the body and mind of man. As spirits, they possess the astonishing power of being invisible and insensible;

daughters of men. He repeats the same assertion, *De Idolatria*, c. 9. *Unum propono, angelos esse illos desertores Dei, amatores foeminarum:* and, in his *Treatise de Cultu Foeminarum*, Lib. i. 2. 3. he quotes the Apocryphal book of Enoch to the same purpose. Josephus (*Ant. Jud.* Lib. i. c. iv. 1.) makes the same use of Gen. vi. 2.

It was imagined that from these corrupt angels arose the demons, a race still more corrupt, who injured and deceived men, and were principally employed in seducing them from the worship of the true God to that of idols.

The principal passages of Tertullian bearing upon this point, are collected in Bp. Kaye's *Tertullian*, p. 214.

Lactantius (Lib. ii. c. 14). adopts the same fanciful notions: *Itaque illos cum hominibus commorantes dominator ille terræ fallacissimus consuetudine ipsâ paulatim ad vitia pellexit, et mulierum congressibus inquinavit.* *Tum in cœlum ob peccata, quibus se immerserant, non recepti, ceciderunt in terram.* *Sic eos Diabolus ex angelis Dei suos fecit satellites, ac ministros.* *Qui autem sunt ex his procreati quia neque homines fuerunt, sed medium quandam naturam gerentes, non sunt ad inferos recepti, sicut nec in cœlum parentes eorum.*

so that their influence is perceived rather in the effects, which it produces, than at the time of its action. In the same manner as it often happens in fruit or in grain, that some secret blight in the air blasts the blossom, kills the produce in the seed, or destroys it when it hath arrived at maturity; or that the air, affected by some unknown cause, breathes forth pestilence and death. By some influence equally obscure, the inspiration of angels and demons agitates the corrupt passions of the mind with fury and disgraceful excesses, and inordinate lusts, together with various errors. One of the principal of these is the delusion, which recommends those gods to the blinded and prejudiced minds of men, in order that the demons may procure for themselves their proper food, the odour of the fat and the blood of the sacrifices offered to those shadows and images. But what they pursue with still greater anxiety is, to remove man from the knowledge of the true God, by the subtil craftiness of false divination. How they effect this, I will shew. Every spirit flies: and angels and demons possess this faculty. Hence they are every where in a moment. The whole world is to them one place: they know, with the same readiness with which they declare it, what is done, and where. This velocity is taken for a proof of divinity, because the nature of all spiritual substances is not understood. Thus they

sometimes wish to appear to have done what they only relate: and so indeed they sometimes are the causes of the evil, but never of the good. They formerly obtained a knowledge of the intentions of God, from the declarations of the prophets, and now gather it from hearing their writings read aloud. Thus, collecting some conjectural knowledge of the future, they emulate the divine authority, by means of the power of divination, which they have surreptitiously obtained.

With what dexterity, in their oracles, they framed their answers so ambiguously as to apply to either event, such men as Crœsus and Pyrrhus well know. But the Pythian Apollo was able, in the manner which we have described, to bring back word that Crœsus^b was cooking a tortoise with the flesh of a lamb; he had been to Lydia, and returned in an instant. From their dwelling in the air, and their vicinity to the stars, and their acquaintance with the clouds, they are able to know what changes are taking place in the atmosphere, so that they can predict rain, which they already perceive forming. Even in the means which they are believed to possess of curing sickness, their evil nature is displayed: for they first inflict an injury, and then propose remedies, which appear so new as to be miraculous, or

^b Herod. i. 46—48.

even of a directly contrary nature; and after this, they desist from injuring, and are believed to have cured. It is needless for me to dwell upon the other contrivances or even upon the powers of deception which these spirits possess: such as the appearances of Castor and Pollux, the sieve which contained water, a ship drawn by the girdle of a vestal, a beard which changed colour, and became red by a touch.^c All these were illusions devised to persuade men to believe images of stone to be gods, and not to seek for the true God.

^c Suetonius (*Nero*, c. 1.) relates a report of this nature respecting Domitius, the ancestor of the Domitian family at Rome. *Aenobarbi auctorem originis, itemque cognominis habent L. Domitium: cui rure quondam revertenti, juvenes gemini augustiore formâ ex occursu imperasse traduntur, nuntiaret senatui ac populo victoriam, de quâ incertum adhuc erat: atque in fidem majestatis adeo permulsisse malas ut è nigro rutilum, ærique assimilem capillum redderent. Quod insigne mansit et in posteris ejus, ac magna pars rutilâ barbâ fuerunt.*

CHAPTER XXIII.

MOREOVER, if the practisers of magical arts call forth spectres, and even injure and insult the souls of the dead,—if they throw boys into convulsions,^{*} to prepare them to give utterance to the words of the oracle,—if by means of juggling tricks, they pretend to perform numerous miracles,—if they inspire dreams too, by having the powerful assistance of the angels and demons once invited to attend them, by whose means even kids and tables have been made the instruments of divination,—how much more should that spiritual power be exerted of its own accord, and for its own objects, to produce the same effects, which it thus performs for the advantage of another? Or, if angels and demons perform the same opera-

* Elidunt.

This refers either to the sacrificing of children, *βρεφομαντεία* or *παιδομαντεία*, to propitiate the god, who was supposed to give the oracle, (see Justin Martyr's *Apology*, c. 24. p. 198. note (q)), or else to the convulsion fits, into which boys were thrown, in order that the words which they uttered, in a state of mental alienation, might be taken for an oracular reply.

tions which your gods perform, where then is that supreme excellence of divinity, which must be believed superior to all other authority? Would it not be a more reasonable assumption, that they were truly gods, who made themselves so, since they perform the very same actions which cause you to believe the divine nature of your gods, than that they are gods simply because they are equal to angels and demons? We are to conceive, I suppose, that the difference of place causes a distinction: that the divinity of your gods is acknowledged in their temples, but not in any other place; that the madness which urges one man to leap from a consecrated tower, is different from that which makes another throw himself from a neighbouring house: and a man, who mutilates his body or lacerates his arms, labours under a different insanity from that which causes another to cut his own throat. The end of these different acts of madness is the same, and they are incited by the same cause.

But these are mere words: we now appeal to a matter of fact, as a proof that the nature of your gods and of the demons is the same under different titles. Let any one, who is confessedly under the influence of demoniacal possession, be brought out here before your tribunal. If the spirit be commanded by any Christian to speak, he shall as truly confess himself to be a demon, as, in other

places, he falsely professes himself to be a god.^b In like manner, let any one of those be produced, who are believed to be influenced by your gods, who inhale the inspiration of divinity by breathing the fumes of the altars, who are bent double in the agonies of suppressed divination, and pant for breath in giving utterance to their oracles. If that very heavenly virgin, Juno, who promises you rain, if Esculapius himself the inventor of medicine, who gave life to Socordius, and Thanatius, and Asclepiadotus,—men who must yet die some other day,—do not confess themselves to be demons, not daring to lie to a Christian, then shed the blood of that most impudent Christian upon the spot. What can be plainer than such an appeal to facts? What can be more impartial than such a mode of proof? Truth is before you in

^b Tertullian advances the like assertions respecting the power of Christians in expelling demons, in cc. 37. 43. *De Testimoniis Animæ*, c. 3. *Ad Scapulam*, c. 2. *De Spectaculis*, c. 29. *De Idololatriâ*, c. 11. *De Coronâ*, c. 11.

Bp. Kaye observes (Tertullian, c. 2.) that Tertullian “casts a doubt upon the accuracy of his own statement by ascribing to Christians in general those extraordinary gifts, which even in the days of the Apostles appear to have been confined to them, and to the disciples upon whom they laid their hands.”

The learned prelate discusses the question respecting the continuance of miraculous power in the Church with his well known judgment and caution. He is of opinion that they ceased with the death of the last disciple, upon whom the Apostles laid their hands.

all her simplicity: she is supported by her own power alone. There is no room for suspicion.

Will ye say that this effect is produced by magic, or by some fallacy of that kind? The testimony of your own eyes and ears will not suffer you to be so deceived. And what can be objected to that which shews itself in naked simplicity? If, on the one hand, they are truly gods, why do they falsely confess themselves demons? Is it in subserviency to us? If so, whatever their divinity be, it is subject to the Christians. And surely that can be no real divinity at all, which is subject to men, and, to add to the disgrace, to men who confess a rival divinity. If, on the other hand, they are demons or angels, why do they on other occasions represent themselves to be gods? For as those, who bear the title of gods, if they were really divine, would not degrade themselves from the majesty of their nature by acknowledging themselves to be merely demons, so those, whom by their own confession ye know to be demons, would not dare to pass for gods on other occasions, if there actually were any such gods, as those whose names they usurp: for they would fear to insult the majesty of those, who are doubtless superior to themselves, and the objects of their reverence.

So absolutely nugatory is that divinity of your gods, which ye maintain: since, if it existed, it

would neither be assumed by demons, nor denied by the gods themselves. Since, therefore, each party agrees in one confession, acknowledging that they are no gods, do ye confess that the two are actually one kind ; that is, that they are demons.

Enquire, then, of each of them, which are really gods : for those, whom ye formerly considered to be such, ye now acknowledge to be demons. But since, by our exertions, we have extorted from your gods this avowal, among many others, that neither they nor any such beings are truly divine, ye may immediately proceed to discover who truly is God ; whether He is the same, and He alone, whom we Christians profess, and whether he is to be believed in, and worshipped, according to the Christian faith and discipline.

Some, however, will say on this occasion, And who is this Christ, with his marvellous tale ? As if he were a mere ordinary man, or a practiser of magic ; as if he were stolen from his grave by his disciples, and were really now with the dead ; as if he were not in heaven, whence he shall quickly come, with a terrible commotion of the whole world, with distress of nations and wailing of all men, except Christians ; as the Virtue of God,^c as the

^c Jesus Christ is in like manner spoken of in c. 21. p. 372. as the Word, and Reason, and Power of God. Jam ediximus Deum universitatem hanc mundi Verbo, et Ratione, et Virtute molitum. And soon after, Et nos etiam Sermoni, atque Rationi,

Spirit of God, as the Word, and the Wisdom, and the Reason, and the Son of God. Let your pretended gods join with you in any such profane ridicule; let them deny that Christ will come to judge every soul which ever lived, reunited to the body; let them assert their belief, before the tribunal, if haply they agree with Plato and the poets, in regarding this office of judgment to belong to Minos and Rhadamanthus, and at least avoid the stigma of their present infamy and future damnation. Let them deny that they are foul spirits, a fact which might at once be understood even from their food, which is blood, and smoke, and disgusting sacrifices of animals; and from the impure tongues of their very priests. Let them deny, that, for their wickedness, they are already condemned to that day of judgment, with all their worshippers and accomplices.

Now all the dominion and power, which we exercise over them, is obtained by the name of Christ, and by reminding them of the punishment

Rationi, itemque Virtuti, per quæ omnia molitum Deum ediximus, propriam substantiam Spiritum inscribimus, cui et sermo insit prænuntianti, et ratio adsit disponenti, et virtus præsit perficienti.

Tertullian uses the same expression, in his Treatise *De Oratione*, c. 1. *Omnia de carnalibus in spiritalia renovavit nova Dei gratia, superducto Evangelio expunctore totius retro vetustatis, in quo et Dei Spiritus, et Dei Sermo, et Dei Ratio approbatus est Dominus noster Jesus Christus; spiritus quo valuit. sermo quo docuit. ratio quâ venit.*

which will come upon them from God by Christ their judge. Fearing Christ in God, and God in Christ, they are subject to the servants of God and Christ. Hence at our touch, or at our breath, they are alarmed with the contemplation and representation of that fire, and at our command depart even from the bodies of men, with reluctance and grief, and blushing with shame at your presence.

Believe them, when they speak the truth of themselves, since ye believe them, when they speak falsely. No one speaks a falsehood to disgrace himself, but to enhance his credit ; they are therefore more entitled to belief, when they confess against themselves, than when they deny in their own favour. Finally, the testimony thus borne by your gods frequently converts men to Christianity : since, by giving full credit to it, we believe in our Lord Christ. Those very gods animate our faith in the Scriptures ; and establish the confidence of our hope. Ye appease them, I well know, even with the blood of Christians. If, therefore, they dared to deny the truth, when any Christian desires by their confession to prove to you what the truth is, they surely would not lose you, who are such profitable and sedulous servants to them.

CHAPTER XXIV.

ALL this confession of your deities, in which they acknowledge that they are not gods, and that there is none other God but one, whom we serve, is at once a sufficient answer to the accusation of treason against the public and peculiarly Roman form of religion. For, if they are assuredly no gods, their religion can have no solid foundation. And if their religion is nugatory, because they are assuredly no gods, then we, assuredly, are not guilty of treason against religion. But, on the contrary, from the real nature of the facts, the charge will be turned against yourselves, since, in worshipping a lie, ye not only neglect, but openly oppose, the true religion of the true God, and thus commit the real crime of actual irreligion.

But even if it should now be granted that those are gods, will not ye allow, according to the common opinion, that there is some Being of greater dignity and power, who is the supreme governor of the world, of infinite might and majesty? For this is the manner, in which most of your philo-

sophers conceive the Divine power to be exercised, that the absolute authority is vested in one, but that the various offices are divided among many: as Plato describes the supreme Jupiter in heaven accompanied with a numerous train of gods and demons. If so, procurators and prefects and presidents ought all to receive the same respect which is paid to the Emperor. Yet of what offence is any man guilty, who turns his whole attention, and directs all his hopes, to deserve the favour of Cæsar himself; and, as he gives the name of Emperor to none but Cæsar, ascribes divinity to the supreme God alone? since it is considered a capital offence to speak or hear of any other sovereign than Cæsar.

Let one, however, be at liberty to worship God, another Jupiter; let one lift his hands in supplication towards heaven, another towards the altar of Faith; let one address his prayers to the clouds—if ye so think of our worship—and another to the decorated ceilings of a temple; let one devote his own soul to his God, and another sacrifice the life of a goat. For beware, lest, in addition to the charge of irreligion, ye expose yourselves to the accusation of taking away religious liberty, and forbidding a person to make choice of the deity, which he will worship, so that I may not pay my adorations where I will, but be compelled to pay them where I would not. No one, not even a man, would

choose to be treated with forced respect: hence even the Egyptians have permission granted them to practise their vain superstition, to consecrate birds and beasts, and to condemn to death those who should kill any of those deities. Besides, every province and state hath its own god. Thus Atargatis is worshipped in Syria, Dusares in Arabia, Belenus in Noricum, the heavenly Virgin in Africa, in Mauritania their princes. All these, which I have enumerated, are, I believe, Roman provinces; yet the gods, which they worship, are not Roman gods, for they are not worshipped at Rome, any more than those are, which are consecrated, throughout Italy also, as the municipal deities of particular cities; such as Delventinus at Casinum, Visidianus at Narnia, Ancharia at Aesculum, Nortia at Vol-sinium, Valentia at Ocriulum, Hostia at Sutrium; and among the Falisci, Juno succeeded to the honour once paid to her father Cures, and thence received a peculiar appellation. We alone are forbidden to exercise our own religion: we offend the Romans, and are not considered to be Romans, because we worship not the god of the Romans. Our happiness is to know that there is one God of all, whose servants we all are, whether we will obey, or whether we will forbear. But with you, permission is given to worship any god, except the true God: as if he, whose we all are, were not peculiarly the God of all.

CHAPTER XXV.

I HAVE already, I trust, sufficiently proved which is the false, and which is the true God, having established the fact, in the foregoing demonstration, not only by reasoning and argument, but by the very testimony of those, whom ye believe to be gods: so that no further discussion is necessary upon that point. But since incidental mention hath been made of the name of the Romans, I will not elude the further question, which is offered by those who maintain that the Romans have been raised to such a degree of prosperity as to govern the whole world, in consequence of their diligent observance of their religion: and that the objects of their worship are certainly gods, since those who are their most faithful adherents, are blessed with prosperity above all others.

We are to suppose then, I presume, that these benefits have been conferred by the Roman gods, as the reward of piety towards them. Sterculus, and Mutunus and Larentina have raised the empire to its present height. For I can never imagine

that foreign gods would have favoured a strange nation, more than they did their own, and given to a people from beyond the sea their own country, in which they were born, and brought up, and deified, and buried. Let Cybele say, whether her love to the city of Rome arose from her attachment to the memory of the Trojan race, who were her natural protectors against the Greeks; and whether she foresaw that she was then passing over to her avengers, who, she knew, would subdue Greece, the destroyer of Troy. She hath, therefore, even in our time, given a striking proof what that divinity is, which she transferred to the city of Rome; since, when the Emperor Marcus Aurelius died at Syrmium, on the seventeenth of March, her chief priest, that most venerable prince of Eunuchs, was offering the accustomed vows for the safety of the Emperor, Marcus, and to enforce his prayers, was drinking the impure blood which flowed from his lacerated arms, seven days after the Emperor's death! O lazy messengers! O tardy dispatches! by whose delay it happened, that Cybele was not sooner acquainted with the death of the Emperor, that so the Christians might have had no cause to deride so sage a deity.

But, if the gods had that power of protecting and rewarding their worshippers, surely Jupiter would never have suffered his own Crete to be

subdued by the Roman power: he never would so soon have forgotten that cave of Ida, and the brazen cymbals of the Corybantes, and the delightful odour of his nursing-mother the goat. Would he not have rendered his own tomb far superior to the whole Capitol, that so the land which contained the ashes of Jupiter should be chosen, in preference to any other, as the mistress of the world? Again, would Juno have suffered Carthage, that colony of the Phœnicians, for love of which she neglected Samos, to be destroyed, especially by the descendants of Æneas? I well know,

— Here were her arms,
And here her chariot stood: this favourite realm
The Goddess loved and cherished, as the seat
Of universal empire, if the fates
Should smile propitious.*

The unhappy wife and sister of Jupiter could do nothing against the fates: in fact,

Even mighty Jove himself must bend to fate.

Yet, although the fates thus gave Carthage up to the Romans, against the will and intention of Juno, they never received half so much honour from the Romans as was paid to that most abandoned harlot Larentina.

Again, it is an acknowledged fact, that many of your gods were sovereigns on earth. If, then,

* *Aeneid.* i. 16.

they possess the power of conferring terrestrial dominion, from whom did they receive their royal authority when they reigned? Whom did Saturn and Jupiter adore? Some such god as Sterculus, I suppose, with the other native Italian gods, who are since so honoured at Rome.^b And even if some of your gods were not sovereigns, at all events, some, at that time, reigned who were not their worshippers; for they were not yet accounted gods. Hence the power of conferring dominion is vested in some one else; since royal sway was exercised, long before one of their idols was ever carved, and his titles engraved.

But how unreasonable is it to ascribe the extent of the Roman power to their scrupulous observance of their religious ordinances, when their religion hath received its principal advancement since the Empire hath been established, and raised by gradual accession to its present state. For although Numa first introduced the peculiarities of your superstition, yet, in his time, the service of your gods was conducted without images or temples. Your religion was then frugal, and its rites simple: there were no Capitols lifting their heads to heaven, but altars casually made of turf, and vessels merely of earth, whence the odour of

^b Quem coluerat Saturnus et Jupiter? aliquem, opinor, Sterculum, sed Romæ posteā cum indigenis.

The words *sed Romæ posteā* appear to be an interpolation.

the offerings arose; and no statues of the gods were any where seen. The invention of the Greeks and Tuscans had not yet been exercised to inundate the city with statues. The Romans, then, were not thus religious, until they were great: and, therefore, did not become great, because they were religious. Nay, how could their greatness be the reward of their religion, when it was obtained by irreligion? For I suppose it will be granted, that all dominion is acquired by war, and extended by victories. Now war and victories are usually signalized by the capture and destruction of the enemies' cities: and that cannot be effected, without injuring their gods. Walls and temples fall in one common ruin: the sword spares neither citizens nor priests; and rapine commits equal ravages upon sacred and profane wealth. The sacrileges of the Romans, therefore, are as numerous as their trophies: their triumphs are celebrated equally over the gods and over the nations: the statues of captive deities still existing are so many spoils of war.

These very gods, then, suffer themselves to be adored by their enemies, and reward with endless empire those, whom they ought rather to punish for their outrages, than to favour for their adulation. But on beings without consciousness, as injuries may be committed with impunity, so honour is vainly bestowed. No one can, surely, believe, that

a people have risen to power for their religion, who, as we have shewn, have either augmented their power by injuring religion, or injured religion by that very increase. For even all those nations, whose independent kingdoms are now united to form the Roman Empire, had their own several religions, at the time when they lost their power.

CHAPTER XXVI.

CONSIDER, then, whether He is not the dispenser of kingdoms, to whom belongs the world, which is governed, and man, who governs it: whether He hath not ordained all the changes of empire, in their several periods during all ages; who was, before all time; who framed eternity into a regular succession of time; whether it is not He who raises and depresses states, under whom the human race once existed without any kind of civil government. Why do ye err in this matter? Rome, in her humble and rustic state, was prior to some of her own gods: she reigned, before the circuit of the Capitol was erected. The Babylonian monarchy was established before your priests; the Medes reigned before your Quindecimviri; the Egyptians before the Salii; the Assyrians before the Luperci; the Amazons before your Vestal virgins. Finally, if the religion of the Romans had the power of conferring kingdoms, Judea, which despised all those gods alike, would never have reigned in times past. And yet ye

C c

Romans honoured the God of the Jews with victims, and his temple with gifts, and the people, at various periods, with treaties; and, would never have subdued that nation, if in the end it had not filled up the measure of its iniquities, by its treatment of Christ.

CHAPTER XXVII.

WE have now sufficiently answered the accusation of treason against your religion ; and proved that we are not guilty of any injury against the divinity of your gods, by shewing it hath no existence. When, therefore, we are invited to offer sacrifice, we strenuously defend ourselves, by advancing the faithful testimony of our own conscience, which assures us what persons they really are, to whom those rites are consecrated, by the dedication of images, and the deification of human names. Some, however, think it mere madness in us, obstinately to prefer perseverance to safety : we might easily, they think, offer sacrifice for the present, and depart uninjured, still mentally retaining our own sentiments. Thus ye yourselves suggest means, by which we might deceive you. But we know what enemy it is, who suggests all these expedients, who causes all this vexation, and strives to overcome our constancy, sometimes by cunning craftiness of persuasion, and sometimes by the severity of punishment. It is that spirit, who

partakes at once of the nature of devils and of angels; who, in consequence of his own fall, being jealous of us, and envious of the divine grace which is given unto us, influences your minds against us, moulding and leading them by his secret inspiration to that violation of justice, and that iniquity of punishment, which I have already exposed in the beginning of this Apology. For although all the power of demons and of spirits of a like nature is subject to us, they still are like vicious servants, who add contumacy to their fear, and strive to injure those, whom they otherwise reverence; for fear itself inspires hatred. Besides this, their desperate condition of eternal damnation finds some kind of consolation in the indulgence of malice; while their punishment is yet delayed. Yet, when they are taken, they are at once subdued, and yield to the necessity of their condition; at a distance they fight against those, whose mercy they supplicate when near at hand. Hence, when they exercise their malice against us, in whose power they are, and cause us to be condemned, like disobedient and rebellious slaves, to labour in prisons, or in the mines, or to undergo any other kind of servile punishment, they know well how unequal in power they are, and that their real nature is the more surely betrayed^a by these abortive attempts. We,

* Hoc magis proditos; this is the reading of Havercamp's edition, instead of perditos.

therefore, oppose these evil spirits as it were upon equal ground ; we resist them by persisting in the cause which they oppose ; and are never more triumphant over them, than when we are condemned to suffer for our perseverance in the faith.

C H A P T E R XXVIII.

IT would easily appear, how unjust it is that free men should be driven to sacrifice to the gods, when in all other instances a willing mind is required as an indispensable qualification for any office of religion; but, at all events, it must seem the height of absurdity, that any one should be compelled to honour the gods, whom he ought to propitiate for their own sake; that he may not have the liberty of saying, I will not have Jupiter propitious to me. Who are you? Let Janus meet me with anger seated upon either of his brows. What right have you to interfere with me? Ye are, in fact, urged by the same spirits, to compel us to sacrifice for the safety of the Emperor. The necessity of compelling us is as obligatory upon you, as the duty of suffering for our faith is upon us.

We now come to the second charge of treason against a Majesty more august than that of your gods. For ye reverence Cæsar with greater ap-

prehension, and more fervent timidity,^a than the Olympian Jove himself; and with good reason, if ye knew the truth. For is not every living person far better than any dead one?^b Neither do ye even this so much from the dictates of reason, as from the respect which ye bear to his immediate and intrinsic power. Thus, in this instance also, ye are proved to be guilty of irreverence towards your gods, since ye pay greater respect to human power. In fact, among you, a man had better forswear himself by all the gods, than by the simple genius of Cæsar.

* *Calidiore* timiditate.

^b Eccles ix. 4. See c. 30.

CHAPTER XXIX.

YE ought, then, first to prove, whether they, to whom sacrifice is offered, are able to give prosperity to the Emperor, or to any man; and then to accuse us for neglecting to comply. If angels or demons, in their own nature the worst kind of spirits, confer any benefit; if the lost can save; if the condemned can liberate; if the dead—as your conscience confesses them to be—can defend the living; then let them first protect their own statues, and images, and temples, which now, I fancy, require the nightly protection of the imperial guard. Nay, I imagine, the very materials, of which they are composed, come from Cæsar's mines; and every temple depends upon Cæsar's will. Besides, many gods have had an enemy in Cæsar. Even if he is propitious, this strengthens our cause, that he should be able so to exercise his liberality, and to confer privileges upon them. Now, how should they, who are in Cæsar's power, who depend entirely upon him, have the prosperity of Cæsar in their power? How can they

grant to him what they might more easily obtain from him?

This, then, is the amount of our crime against the Emperors, that we will not subject them to what is their own; that we do not join in ridiculous addresses for their welfare, nor believe them to be in hands, which require to be fastened with lead. Ye, I presume, are the only religious persons, who seek for prosperity for your Emperors, where it cannot be found; who demand it of him, who hath it not to give; while ye pass over Him, in whose power it is: and, besides, persecute those who know how to ask for it; and by such knowledge would be able to obtain it.

CHAPTER XXX.

FOR the God, whom we invoke for the safety of the Emperors, is the eternal God, the true God, the living God, whom the Emperors themselves would wish to propitiate above all others. They know who it is who hath given them power: they know, as human beings, who hath given them life also. They perceive that he is God alone, in whose power alone they are, under whom they hold the second place, after whom they occupy the first rank, before all and above all gods. For they are superior to all men living; and all who live are surely superior to the dead.^a They consider how far the bounds of their power extends; and thus understand what God is. They acknowledge that their power is derived from Him, against whom their authority avails nothing. Let any Emperor make war on heaven, lead heaven

^a Eccles. ix. 4.

captive in his triumphal procession, set a guard over heaven, and impose a tribute upon it. He can do no such thing. His power arises only from this, that he is inferior to heaven. For he belongs to that Being, in whose power is heaven and every creature. He hath no other origin as Emperor, than he had, as a man, before he was Emperor: his power and his life are alike the gifts of God. To that God we Christians look up with hands extended, because they are innocent; with head uncovered, because we have nothing of which we are ashamed; and pray without a prompter,^b because we pray from the heart. We all pray without ceasing for all Emperors, beseeching for them a long life, a secure reign; that their families may be preserved in safety, their armies brave, the senate faithful, the people honest, the whole world

^b Denique sine monitore, quia de pectore, oramus.

It is plain that Tertullian is here not condemning the use of set forms of prayer, but contrasting the hearty and earnest devotions, which the Christians offered for the Emperor, with the desultory and forced exclamations of the idolatrous people. Compare c. 35. There is probably also an allusion to the persons who were appointed, at the sacrifices of the Romans, to prompt the magistrates, lest they should incidentally omit a single word in the appropriate formulæ, which would have vitiated the whole proceedings. “Vidimus certis precationibus obsecrasse summos magistratus: et ne quid verborum præteratur, aut præpostorum dicatur, de scripto præire aliquem, rursusque alium custodem dari qui attendat, alium verò præponi qui faveri linguis jubeat; tibicinem canere, ne quid aliud exaudiatur.” Plin. Hist. Nat. xxviii. c. 2. See Bingham, Eccles. Ant. Book xiii. c. 5. 5.

peaceful, and whatever other things either the people or the Emperor can desire. I can prefer these prayers to Him only, who, I know, will grant them, since it is He alone, in whose power they are; and I am one whom he will hear, one of those who alone are his servants. For his sake I am killed. To him I offer the rich and more excellent sacrifice, which he himself hath ordained,^c prayer out of a clean heart, and innocent mind, and sanctified spirit. I offer not a grain of frankincense which is sold for one farthing, nor the tears of an Arabian tree, nor two drops of wine, nor the blood of a cast-away ox, which would be glad to die; and after all other abominations, even a defiled conscience; so that it is a wonder, when the most reprobate priests are appointed to examine your victims, why the enquiry is made into the hearts of the sacrifices, rather than into those of the sacrificers.

When, then, we are thus stretching forth our hands in prayer to God, let piercing instruments lacerate our flesh, let crosses sustain, and flames devour us, let swords strike off our heads, and wild beasts rend us; the very attitude of a Christian in prayer is prepared for every kind of punishment.

^c Heb. xiii. 15. Hos. xiv. 2.

Take especial care of this,⁴ ye excellent and just judges: rack the soul which is praying to God for the Emperor. This will be a crime, when truth and devotion to God is.

⁴ *Hoc agite, boni præsides.*

Tertullian makes here a sarcastic allusion to the well known institution of Numa, that, while the magistrates and priests were engaged in any religious ceremony, a herald should proclaim *Hoc age*, to fix the attention of the people.

C H A P T E R XXXI.

BUT perhaps it will be said, we merely flatter the Emperor, and counterfeit the vows, which we have mentioned, to avoid punishment. The accusation of this deceit is not without its advantage; for ye permit us to prove what we allege in our defence. Ye, therefore, who think we care nothing for the safety of the Emperors, examine the word of God, our Scriptures; we conceal them not, and many accidents bring them to the knowledge of those who are strangers to our faith. Learn from them, that we are commanded, in the overflowing fulness of Christian charity, to pray to God even for our enemies, and to supplicate all good things for our persecutors.^a Who are greater enemies and persecutors of the Christians, than those against whom we are accused of treason? Whereas we are commanded plainly and expressly, in these words, “Pray for kings, and for princes, and authorities, that all things may be peaceable to

^a Matt. v. 44. Luke vi. 27. 35.

you."^b For when the whole empire is shaken, by the disturbance of its other members, we too, although entirely removed from all civil contentions, must yet be found in some place exposed to accidental injuries.

^b Rom. xiii. i. 1 Tim. ii. 2. Tit. iii. i. 1 Pet. ii. 13.

CHAPTER XXXII.

WE have another and greater necessity, which urges us to pray for the Emperors, and for the prosperity of the whole Empire and condition of the Romans, since we know that the violent commotions which are impending over the whole world, and even the end of all things, which threatens the most horrible desolation, is retarded by the continuance of the Roman Empire.* We would wil-

* It was a prevailing opinion, in the early ages of the Church, that the day of judgment was at hand. Thus Cyprian, *De Mortalitate*, p. 165. (Fell).

Quod cùm semper faciendum fuerit Dei servis, nunc fieri multo magis debet, corruente jam mundo, et malorum infestantium turbinibus obpresso: ut qui cernimus cæpissemus jam gravia, et scimus imminere graviora, lucrum maximum computemus, si istinc velociùs recedamus. Si in habitaculo tuo parietes vetustate nutarent, tecta supertremerent, domus jam fatigata, jam lassa, ædificiis senectute labentibus ruinam proximam minaretur, nonne omni celeritate migrares? Si, navigante te, turbida et procellosa tempestas fluctibus violentius excitatis, prænunciaret futura naufragia, nonne portum velociter peteres? Mundus ecce nutat et labitur: et ruinam sui non jam senectute rerum sed fine testatur: et tu non Deo gratias agis, non tibi gratularis, quod exitu matuiore subtractus, minis, et naufragis, et plagiis imminentibus exuaris?

Tertullian

lingly avoid these evils; and while we pray that they may be deferred, we favour the duration of the Roman power.

Moreover, if we swear not by the genius of the Emperors,^b we swear by their safety, which is an oath of greater respect than any genius. Can ye possibly be ignorant, that the genii are called Demons, and thence by a diminutive, Dæmonia? We reverence, in the Emperors, the providence of

Tertullian, in many parts of his writings, as well as in this Apology, expresses his belief that the consummation of all things would immediately follow the dissolution of the Roman Empire: and in his Treatise de Resurrectione Carnis, c. 24. he thus interprets the prophecy of St. Paul (2 Thess. ii. 6.) respecting the man of sin. “*Et nunc quid detineat scitis, ad revelandum eum in suo tempore. Jam enim arcana iniquitatis agitatur; tantum qui nunc tenet, teneat; donec de medio fiat.*” *Quis, nisi Romanus status?* *Cujus abscessio in decem reges dispersa Antichristum superducet.*

Hence, although, as in Resurrect. Carnis, c. 22. he sometimes represents the final judgment as the completion of the hopes of a Christian—*vota nostra suspirant in seculi hujus occasum, in transitum mundi quoque ad diem Domini magnum, diem iræ et retributionis:* and in his Treatise de Oratione, c. 5. he appears to oppose those who pray for a longer continuance of the world, as contrary to the petition in the Lord’s prayer, Thy kingdom come—he yet speaks of the connection between the day of judgment and the termination of the Roman power as a reason why Christians should earnestly pray for the Emperor and the Empire. Thus, ad Scapulam, c. 2. he says, *Christianus nullius est hostis, nedum Imperatoris: quem sciens à Deo suo constitui, necesse est ut ipsum diligat et revereatur, et honoret, et salvum velit, cum toto Romano imperio, quounque sæcum stabit: tamdiu enim stabit.*

^b See note (m) on the Martyrdom of Polycarp, c. 9. p. 154.

God, who placed them on their throne.^c We know that the power which they possess is in conformity to the will of God; and we therefore are desirous that what is the will of God should be safe; and we regard this as a powerful oath. But, with respect to the demons, that is the Genii of which ye speak, our custom is to adjure^d them, in order to cast them out of men, and not to swear by them, as if we attributed to them divine honour.

^c Thus the military oath, under the Christian Emperors, was altered, in compliance with the conscientious feelings of the Christian soldiers. Vegetius, *de re militari* ii. 5. has preserved the form: “*Jurant per Deum, et per Christum, et per Spiritum Sanctum, et per majestatem Imperatoris, quæ secundum Deum generi humano diligenda est et colenda.*”

^d *Adjurare* consuevimus, ut illos de hominibus exigamus; non *dejerare*, ut illis honorem divinitatis conferamus.

CHAPTER XXXIII.

BUT why should I longer dwell upon the religion and piety of the Christians towards the Emperor, whom we must necessarily reverence as the person whom our Lord hath chosen, and who, I might justly say, is to us something more than Cæsar, since he is appointed by our God. Hence I act the more efficaciously for his welfare in this respect, that I not only pray for it to Him who is able to grant it, and, as a Christian, deserve to obtain it, but by subjecting the majesty of Cæsar to God, I commend him the more to God, to whom alone I make him subject. And in thus subjecting him to God, I do not make him equal to God. For I will never call the Emperor god, not only because I cannot lie, but because I dare not insult him by pretended devotion, and because he would not wish himself to be called a god. If he be a man, it is the true interest of every human being to give way to God: it is sufficient for him to be called Emperor. Even this is a noble title, which is given to him by God. He who calls him a god,

deprives him of the title of Emperor.⁴ He is not an Emperor unless he is a man. He is admonished of his human nature, even when he is riding in triumphal procession in his lofty chariot; for even then a person placed behind him whispers in his ear, "Look back: remember that thou art a man." And, in fact, the necessity that he should be thus admonished of his condition, adds to the satisfaction which he feels at the splendour which glitters around him. He would be really less, if he were then called a god; because it would be false. He is greater when he is recalled to himself, that he may not esteem himself a god.

⁴ The Emperors were not deified till after their death. He, therefore, who calls them by the appellation of a god addresses them as if they were already dead, and either seems to wish for their death, or, at least, utters words of ill omen. See the end of c. 34.

CHAPTER XXXIV.

AUGUSTUS, the founder of the Empire, would never permit himself to be styled even Lord.^a For this also is a name peculiar to God. I may simply call the Emperor, lord, but as an ordinary appellation, not when I am forced to call him Lord, in the place of God. But I am his free subject:^b for I have but one Lord, the omnipotent and eternal God, who is also his Lord. How can he, who is properly styled the Father of his country, be its lord. Besides, the name which entitles him to filial respect is more grateful than that which implies absolute power. Any one, in his own family, would rather be called father than lord. So far is the Emperor from being entitled to be called God; a supposition indeed which never could be believed, except by an adulation as pernicious as it is base. It is as if, when ye have one Emperor,

^a Suetonius, Aug. 53.

^b Liber sum illi. I owe allegiance to the Emperor; but in matters of religion I am free to pay my worship to Him who is the supreme and only God.

ye addressed yourselves to another. By so doing, would ye not unpardonably offend your own Emperor, and expose him, whom ye address, to fearful danger? Be rather religious towards God, if ye would have him favourable to the Emperor. Cease to regard any other as God, and thus to call him a god, who himself hath need of God. And if your adulation be of such a nature that it blushes not to assert such a falsehood, in addressing a man as God, at least let it be afraid of the ill omen which it implies. It is nothing less than a malediction to address Cæsar as a god, before his apotheosis.

CHAPTER XXXV.

FOR this reason, then, the Christians are treated as public enemies, because they refuse to ascribe vain, and lying, and unauthorised honours to the Emperors; because, in the spirit of true religion, their services are seated in the heart, rather than displayed in wanton excess. It is, forsooth, a great instance of zealous attachment, to bring out publicly fire and couches, to feast throughout all the streets, to turn the whole city into one tavern, to spill wine upon the ground, and run about in troops to commit every act of violence, and indecency, and lust. Is the public joy thus expressed by the public disgrace? Are acts proper to be performed on the festal day of the Prince,* which are improper on all other days? Shall they who, out of respect to Cæsar, usually observe discipline, on his account cast it off? Shall piety be an excuse for licentiousness; religion an occasion of luxury?

— Cras nato Cæsare festus
Dat veniam somnumque dies; impune licebit
Estivam sermone benigno tendere noctem.

HOR. Epist. i. 5. 9.

O how justly are we to be condemned! For why do we make our vows, and keep our festivities for Cæsar, with chastity, and sobriety, and moderation? Why, on the day of public rejoicing, do we not cover our doors with laurel, and violate the light of day by an artificial display of lamps? When a public solemnity requires it, to decorate your house as if it were some new brothel, is a mark of respectability. With respect, however, to the religion which ye say is due to some second degree of divine authority,—and for which ye accuse us Christians of a second sacrilege, because we refuse to celebrate the festivals of the Emperors, in a manner not permitted by modesty, or bashfulness, or sobriety, and introduced rather as an occasion of unlawful enjoyment, than in compliance with the persuasion of right reason,—I am desirous to shew what is your own fidelity and truth, lest, haply, those who will not permit us to be regarded as Romans, but as enemies of the Roman sovereigns, should in this instance also be found worse than the Christians themselves. I appeal to the citizens of Rome, to the populace, who dwell upon the seven hills, whether their language spares any one of the Cæsars? The low habitations on the border of the Tiber, and the shows of wild beasts, which are the schools where the multitude learn their manners, bear sufficient testimony to this. In fact, had nature placed some transparent substance in

every man's breast, on whose heart would there not be found imprinted the scene of another and again another Cæsar, presiding at the distribution of the largess on his accession; and that too in the very hour when they are shouting,

“Jove, take our years to lengthen Cæsar's life.”

A Christian would be as far from pronouncing such a prayer, as he would be from wishing for a new emperor.

But these, ye will say, are the mere vulgar. But if they are the vulgar, they are yet Romans; and there are no greater persecutors of the Christians than the vulgar. Of course, however, all the other orders of the state are scrupulously faithful, in proportion to their rank: no treason was ever breathed from the Senate itself, from the Equestrian order, from the military, or from the very court. Whence then came a Cassius,^b a Niger, an Albinus? Whence arose those who attacked the Emperor (Commodus) between the two groves of laurel? and those who exercised themselves in wrestling to acquire strength to strangle him? Whence came those who rushed in arms into the palace, [to murder Pertinax,] in a more audacious manner than Sigerius and Parthenius employed [in the murder of Domitian?] The actors in all these scenes were Romans, I fancy, that is, were not

^b Compare Tertullian Ad Nationes, I. c. 17. Ad Martyr, c. 6. Ad Scapulam, c. 2.

Christians. Hence all of them, up to the very breaking out of their treason, constantly sacrificed for the welfare of the Emperor, and swarc by his genius. In all of them there was a great difference between their outward deportment and their inward sentiments: and doubtless they gave the Christians the name of public enemies. Nay, look at those who are daily discovered as the accomplices and abettors of similar wicked attempts, a gleaning of the full vintage of parricide: how careful were they to fill their door-ways with the freshest and most umbrageous laurels? how did they cover the entrance of their houses with the loftiest and brightest lamps? how did they divide the forum among themselves by a display of the most highly decorated and splendid couches? All this they did, not as partaking in the celebration of the public festivity, but that they might pay their vows for the success of their own schemes, in a solemnity appointed for a different purpose, and inaugurate an emblem and image of their own hopes, changing in their hearts the name of the Emperor.

Those also perform their duty in the same manner, who consult astrologers and soothsayers, and augurs, and magicians, respecting the person of the Emperor; arts to which Christians never have recourse, even in their own private affairs, inasmuch as they were delivered by fallen angels, and are forbidden by God. For who can need to

make any inquiry about the welfare of the Emperor, unless he designs or wishes something contrary to it, or encourages the expectation of some benefit after his death? For a consultation of this nature is made with a very different spirit respecting a man's friends and his sovereigns. The solicitude of natural affection is very different from that of slavery.

CHAPTER XXXVI.

IF, then, they are proved to be enemies, who yet were called Romans, why are we refused the name of Romans, because we are presumed to be enemies? Is it impossible that we should be Romans, and yet not enemies, because some are found to be enemies, who were called Romans? Piety, and religion, and fidelity to the Emperors consist not in those observances, which rather serve as a cloak for the purposes of hostility, but in conduct which obliges us to display our respect to the Emperor as truly as our kindly disposition towards all men. For the exercise of good will is not required of us with respect to the Emperors alone. We are bound to do good without respect of persons; for we do it for our own sakes, and look for a return of commendation and reward not from men but from God, who requires and will repay disinterested charity. We trust our Emperors and our neighbours alike. For we are alike forbidden to wish, or to do, or to say, or to think any evil of

any one. What we are forbidden to do towards the Emperor, we are not permitted to do towards any one else. What we may do to no one else, we are perhaps still more bound not to do to him, whom God hath raised to such an elevation.

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C H A P T E R XXXVII.

IF, then, we are commanded to love our enemies, as I have before shewn, whom have we to hate? If, when injured, we are forbidden to return evil for evil, lest we should be like our adversaries, whom can we hurt? And on this point do ye yourselves be judges. For how frequently do ye use violence against the Christians, sometimes at the instigation of private malice, and sometimes according to the forms of law. How often also—not to mention yourselves—do the common people in their rage attack us of their own accord with stones and flames. In the furious orgies of the Bacchanalians, they spare not even the dead bodies of the Christians: they draw them forth, from the resting place of the grave, from the asylum of death; they cut in pieces, and drag asunder, corpses which can not be recognised, and are no longer entire. But among all those, against whom such cruelties are exercised, and who are so provoked, even to death, what instance did you ever discover, in which the injury was retaliated? Although even one night,

with the aid of a torch or two, would afford abundant means of revenge, if we were permitted to return evil for evil. But God forbid that our religion should require the fires of the incendiary to prove its divine origin, or should grieve at sufferings by which its truth is tried. For if we wished to act, not as secret avengers, but as open enemies, think ye that we should lack numbers and forces? As well might ye say that any one nation, such as the Moors, the Marcomanni, the Parthians themselves, or any other tribe confined to its own territory, was more numerous than the rest of the world united. We are but of yesterday, and have already filled all your empire, your towns, islands, forts, boroughs, councils, your very camp, every tribe and quarter of the city, the palace, the senate, the forum.* We

* This is a remarkable testimony to the rapid propagation of the Christian religion. Tertullian makes assertions of the same nature in his *Apology*, c. 1. (p. 283.) In his *Treatise ad Scapulam*, c. 2. he speaks of the Christians as forming almost the majority in every place—"tanta hominum multitudo, pars penè major civitatis cuiusque." And at the conclusion of the same *Treatise*, c. 5. he declares, that if the cruel laws against the Christians were rigidly enforced Carthage would be decimated. "Hoc si placuerit et hīc fieri, quid facies de tantis millibus hominum, tot viris ac feminis, omnis sexus, omnis ætatis, omnis dignitatis offerentibus se tibi? Quantis ignibus, quantis gladiis opus erit? Quid ipsa Carthago passura est decimanda à te, cùm propinquos cùm contubernales suos illic unusquisque cognoverit?—Parce ergo tibi, si non nobis. Parce Carthagini, si non tibi."

Compare also *Ad Nationes*, I. c. 8. In another place (*Adv. Jud.* c. 7.) he speaks of the diffusion of Christianity throughout the

leave you nothing but your temples. We can calculate the number of your armies: the Christians of one province would exceed it. Even with inferior numbers, for what war should we not be ready, and fitted, when we possess such passive courage as to submit patiently to death, if our principles did not instruct us rather to be slain than to slay? We might indeed, effectually oppose you even without arms, and without active resistance or revolt, by merely separating ourselves from you. For if such a multitude of men, as we are, should suddenly remove to some remote extremity of the world, the loss of so many citizens, of whatever kind they were, would overwhelm your whole empire with shame, and punish it simply by desertion. Without all doubt ye would be terrified at the solitude

the world, and enumerates Spain, Gaul, and Britain, among many other places to which the Gospel had already extended.

“—— Getulorum varietates, et Maurorum multi fines; Hispaniarum omnes termini, et Galliarum diversæ nationes, et Britannorum inaccessa Romanis loca, Christo vero subdita: et Sarmatarum, et Dacorum, et Germanorum, et Scytharum, et abditarum multarum gentium; et provinciarum et insularum multarum nobis ignotarum, et quæ enumerare minus possumus? In quibus omnibus locis Christi nomen, qui jam venit, regnat.” De Coronâ, c. 12, he uses the incidental expression, “Et apud barbaros etiam Christus.”

We must make considerable allowance for the strong manner in which Tertullian is in the habit of making his statements. But after all reasonable deduction on this account, we cannot but regard his testimony as very valuable in shewing that the Christians formed a most numerous body in many places, and that the religion of the Gospel was then very widely diffused.

in which ye found yourselves placed, at the silence of all things around you, and, as it were, at the awful stillness of a dead world ; and would look about in vain for subjects to govern. Ye would have more enemies than citizens left. For even now ye have fewer enemies than ye otherwise would have, on account of the multitude of Christians, since almost all the citizens of almost all cities are Christians.

But, notwithstanding this, ye prefer calling us enemies of the human race. Whereas who else would rescue you from enemies, which are secretly in all directions destroying your souls and undermining your health? I speak of the incursions of demons, which we repel from you without fee or reward.^b

This alone would afford us an ample revenge, that we should leave you in the undisturbed possession of unclean spirits. Yet ye repay us not for this invaluable protection, but treat a race of men, who are not only harmless, but necessary to your welfare, as enemies ; and enemies indeed we are, not of the human race, but rather of all kinds of error.

^b Compare c. 23. note (b.)

C H A P T E R XXXVIII.

OUR religion, therefore, ought to be still more leniently regarded, among those sects which are tolerated ; since we commit none of those enormities, which are apprehended from such factions as are disallowed. For, doubtless, the legitimate object of government, in prohibiting factions, is to guard the public peace, and prevent the state from being divided into various parties ; since this would soon create disturbance in your assemblies, in your councils, your courts, your meetings, and even in your public spectacles, by the conflict of those who favour different parties, especially at a time when men are found, who from vile and mercenary motives will lend themselves to the perpetration of any violence. But we, who are dead to all desires of glory and dignity, have no occasion to join in any assemblies ; and no life is more alien from our habits than public life. We look upon ourselves as citizens of one state only, of the whole world. In like manner we renounce your public spectacles, because we know they originated in superstition ; and

have no dealings with what is there transacted. What we speak, and see, and hear, hath nothing in common with the madness of the circus, the indecency of the theatre, the cruelty of the arena, or the vanity of your athletic exercises. Ye permitted the Epicureans to boast that they had discovered the true secret of pleasure. Why are ye offended at us if we have recourse to other pleasures of our own ? If we will be ignorant of the art of enjoyment, the loss is ours ; at all events, not yours. But we renounce what pleases you, and our occupations delight you not.

CHAPTER XXXIX.

I SHALL now set forth the facts relating to the Christian faith; that, having refuted the calumnies advanced against it, I may display its goodness, by a representation of the truth. We are a body united in the profession of religion, in the same rites of worship, and in the bond of a common hope. We meet in one place, and form an assembly, that we may, as it were, come before God in one united body, and so address him in prayer. This is a violence, which is well pleasing to God. We pray also for the Emperors, and for those in authority under them, for the powers of this world, for the maintenance of peace, and for the delay of final judgment.

We meet, also, for reading the holy Scriptures, as the circumstances of the times require us to receive instruction for the future, or remembrance of the past. By the study of those holy words we most surely nourish our faith, elevate our hope, confirm our assurance, and strengthen our attach-

ment to its precepts, even under persecution.^a In the same place we deliver exhortations, reproofs, and the religious censure of excommunication. For our judgments are given with great solemnity, as among men who are conscious that they are in the sight of God; and it is the surest anticipation of future judgment, if any one who offends is therefore banished from all communion of prayer, and from our public assemblies, and from all holy intercourse.

There preside over us certain approved elders,^b who have obtained that honour not by purchase, but by public testimony: for no office of God is to

^a Disciplinam præceptorum nihilominus in compulsionibus densamus. Many editions have inculcationibus.

^b Tertullian here speaks of the order of Bishops and Presbyters under the appellation of probati quique seniores. In his Treatise de Præscriptione Hæreticorum, c. 3. he mentions the orders of Bishop and Deacon. Quid ergo si Episcopus, si diaconus—lapsus à regulâ fuerit. In other places, he enumerates the three orders of Bishops, Priests, and Deacons; and makes a distinction between the Clergy and Laity.

Dandi quidem habet jus summus sacerdos, qui est Episcopus; dehinc Presbyteri et Diaconi: non tamen sine Episcopi, auctoritate, propter Ecclesiæ honorem; quo salvo, salva pax est. De Baptismo, c. 17. Sed quum ipsi auctores, id est, ipsi Diaconi, Presbyteri, et Episcopi fugiunt, quomodo laicus intelligere poterit, quâ ratione dictum, Fugite de civitate in civitatem? De Fuga in Persecut. c. 11.

In his Treatise de Præscriptione Hæreticorum, c. 41. he accuses the Heretics of confounding these distinctions; Itaque alius hodie Episcopus, cras alius: hodie Diaconus, qui cras Lector: hodie Presbyter, qui cras Laicus: nam et laicis sacerdotalia munera injungunt.

be bought with money. If there is a public chest, the money collected is no dishonourable sum, as if it belonged to a purchased religion. Every one makes a small contribution, on a certain day of the month, or when he chooses, provided only he is willing and able: for no one is compelled; all is voluntary. The amount is, as it were, a common fund of piety. Since it is expended not in feasting, or drinking, or indecent excess, but in feeding and burying the poor, and in supporting children of either sex, who have neither parents nor means of subsistence, and old men now confined to their houses and incapable of work; in relieving those also who have been shipwrecked: and if there are any in the mines, or in the islands, or in prison, provided they suffer for the cause of God's religion, they are the almoners of the bounty, to which their confession entitles them.

But even the working of a charity like this is by some made a cause of censure against us. "See," say they, "how these Christians love one another!" For they themselves hate one another: and, "how ready each one is to die for the other!" For they themselves are much more ready to put one another to death. If, again, we are blamed for styling one another brethren, this can, I imagine, be made matter of reproach for this reason only, that among themselves all names of kindred are affected only for feigned purposes. We acknowledge ourselves

to be even your brethren, having one nature as our common mother, although ye have forfeited your title to be considered human beings, because ye are bad brethren. With how much more reason, then, are we both called and esteemed brethren, who have all recognized one Father, even God, who have all drunk of one spirit of holiness, who have all trembled with astonishment, when we have been born as it were from the same womb of ignorance, into the same light of truth.

But, it may be, we are the less regarded as real brethren, because no tragedy derives materials for declamation from our brotherhood, or because, as brethren, we unite in the use of our common property, which, with you, is the greatest cause of discord among brethren. Hence we, who are of one mind and one soul, hesitate not to communicate what we possess one with another. All things which we have are in common, except our wives. Our community of property ceases, in that very point, in which alone other men have any thing in common; for they not only violate the marriage bed of others, but most patiently allow their friends access to their own; following, I imagine, the lessons of those wisest of men, the Grecian Socrates, and the Roman Cato,^c who lent to their friends

^c Plutarch, in his life of Cato, the philosopher, great-grandson of Cato the Censor, says that he gave his wife Marcia to Quintus Hortensius, and, at his death, took her back again. Tertullian here confounds the two Catos.

the wives whom they had married, that they might bear children to others. How far this was against the consent of their wives, I know not: for why should they be careful of their chastity, of which their husbands so easily disposed? O wisdom of Athens! O rare example of Roman gravity! The Philosopher and the Censor each disposes of his wife's virtue.

What wonder is it, then, if, maintaining such good will towards each other, we should feast together. For, I understand, our moderate entertainments are not only accused as scenes of infamy, but censured as extravagantly expensive. Whereas, in truth, Diogenes might have alluded to us, when he said, "the people of Megara feast as if they were to die tomorrow, and build as if they were to live for ever." But every one sees a mote in another's eye, sooner than a beam in his own. The whole air is soured with the gross exhalations of all your tribes, and wards, and quarters of your city, at their feasts. The Salii cannot sup, without borrowing money to pay for the banquet. Accountants are necessary expressly to calculate the expense of the tithes and offerings made to Hercules. An especial levy of cooks is made for the Apaturia, or mysteries of Bacchus.^a At the smoke of the supper of Serapis, firemen are

^a The Eleusinian mysteries.

called out. Yet the only complaint which is made, is at the simple meal of the Christians. Our supper sufficiently shews its meaning by its very name. It is called by a term which in Greek signifies love. Whatever may be its cost, an expense incurred in the cause of religion is in fact a gain, since by this refreshment we assist all who are in need; not in the manner in which parasites with you eagerly expose themselves to every kind of indignity and ill usage, which the licentiousness of the banquet may inspire, to gratify their appetite; but with the full conviction that God more especially regards the poor.

If the cause of our feast be honourable, consider the order of the rest of our regulations, how appropriate it is to the duties of religion. It admits nothing indecorous, nothing indecent. We sit not down to eat, until prayer to God be made, as it were, the first morsel.* We eat as much as

* See 1 Tim. iv. 4, 5. That this custom of making prayer before meals was preserved in later ages of the Church, is plain from many occasional references to it. Thus Chrysostom, in his 49th Homily on Matt. xiv. (Tom. II. p. 314. 32. Savile.) when speaking of our Lord blessing the bread, before he gave it to the multitude, observes that this was intended to teach us not to sit down to table, till we had first given thanks to him who provides us with food. Όμοῦ μὲν ταῦτα κατασκευάζων, όμοῦ δὲ ἕπερ εἰπον παιδεύων ημᾶς μὴ πρότερον ἀπτεσθαι τραπέζης, ἔως ἂν εὐχαριστήσωμεν τῷ τὴν τρόφην ημῖν ταύτην παρέχοντι.

The character which Tertullian here gives of the manners of the primitive Christians in society, agrees entirely with the delightful

will satisfy hunger, and drink as much as is useful for the temperate. We commit no excess, for we remember that even during the night we are to make our prayers to God. Our conversation is that of men who are conscious that the Lord hears them. After water is brought for the hands, and lights, we are invited to sing to God, according as each one can propose a subject from the Holy Scriptures, or of his own composing. This is the proof in what manner we have drunk.

Prayer in like manner concludes the feast. Thence we depart, not to join a crowd of disturbers of the peace, nor to follow a troop of brawlers; nor to break out in any excess of wanton riot; but to maintain the same staid and modest demeanour, as if we were departing, not from a supper, but from a lecture.

This society of the Christians is truly unlawful, if it be like those which are unlawful: and ought indeed to be condemned, if it be not contrary to those which are condemned; if any one brings an accusation against it, such as is alleged against other factions. Whom have we ever injured in

delightful representation made by Cyprian, (*Ad Donatum, ad fin. p. 10. Fell.*) Et quoniam feriata nunc quies, ac tempus est otiosum; quicquid inclinato jam sole in vesperam diei superest, ducamus hanc diem lœti: nec sit vel hora convivii gratiæ cœlestis immunis. Sonet psalmos convivium sobrium: et ut tibi tenax memoria est, vox canora; aggredere hoc munus ex more. Magis carissimos pasces, si sit nobis spiritalis auditio; prolectet aures religiosa mulcedo.

our assemblies? We are the same when we are collected, as when dispersed; the same united, as we are separated; injuring no one, grieving no one. When men of probity and goodness and piety and chastity are thus assembled, the meeting is not to be called a faction, but a court.

CHAPTER XL.

ON the contrary, the name of a faction is appropriately applied to those who unite in hatred of the just and good, who join in the outcry against innocent blood, however they may cover their malice with the vain pretext, that the Christians are the cause of every public calamity and every inconvenience which the people suffer. If the Tiber rises against the walls of the city, or the Nile does not overflow its banks, if there is drought, or earthquake, or famine, or pestilence, the cry at once is, “Take the Christians to the lion!”—What! so many to one beast?

Tell me, pray, before the reign of Tiberius, that is, before the birth of Christ, how many misfortunes afflicted the empire and the city of Rome? We read of the islands Hiera, Anaphe, Delos, Rhodes, and Cos having been desolated, with the loss of many thousand men. Plato also mentions a tract of land, greater than Asia and Africa, to have been swallowed up by the sea. An earthquake engulfed part of the Corinthian sea; and the

force of the waves cut off Lucania from Italy, and caused its name to be changed to Sicily. Now all these changes doubtless occurred not without injury to the inhabitants. But where were then,—I say not the Christians who despise your gods, but where were your gods themselves,—when the deluge destroyed the whole world; or, as Plato supposed, the plains only? For the very cities, in which your deities were born and died, and those which they founded, unite in proving that they were subsequent to the destruction caused by the deluge. For had not the cities been posterior to that period, they never would have remained to this day.

The swarm of the Jewish nation had not yet settled in Palestine, nor had the origin of the Christian religion been there laid, when a shower of fire burnt up the neighbouring region of Sodom and Gomorrha. The whole earth there still retains the smell of fire, and the fruit of any tree which endeavours to bear, is fair to the eye, but dissolves to ashes at the touch.

Again, neither Tuscany nor Campania complained of the Christians, when fire from heaven overwhelmed the city Volsinii, and flames from their own mountain consumed Pompeii. There were, at Rome, no worshippers of the true God, when Hannibal, at Cannæ, measured in a bushel the rings of the Romans who were slain in battle.

All your gods were universally adored, when the Gauls besieged the very Capitol. It is remarkable, too, that when any misfortune befel the cities, the temples suffered as well as the walls; so that even from this fact I might prove, that the calamities were not sent by your gods, since they happened to themselves.

The human race hath always deserved punishment from God; in the first place, because they served him not; but, when they understood him in part, they not only sought him not out as an object of reverence and fear, but speedily made for themselves other gods: and then, because seeking Him not as the rewarder of innocence and the judge and avenger of guilt, they have given themselves up to all kinds of vices and crimes. If, on the other hand, they had sought him, they would assuredly have found him; and, when found, they would have served him, and, by serving him would have been the objects of his mercy rather than of his anger. But now it is just that they should be exposed to the anger of God, in the same manner as they were before the name of Christian was ever heard. Since they experienced benefits from Him, long before their own gods were feigned to exist, why should they not understand that their misfortunes have come from Him, whose benefits they had not noticed? They are justly subject to condemnation, in that they are ungrateful.

If, however, we compare former calamities with the present, we shall find that the world is now less severely visited, since God gave Christians to inhabit it. For from that period, their innocence hath tempered the depravity of the age ; and they have begun to be intercessors with God.

Finally, when ye suffer so from drought, that your summer is as barren as your winter, and ye fear even for the natural return of the seasons, feeding daily to the full, and running from one excess of gluttony to another, after having indulged in your baths and in taverns and brothels, ye sacrifice offerings to Jupiter, to obtain rain, command the people to walk bare-foot in processions, seek for heaven in the Capitol, and look for a supply of rain to the ceilings of your temples, forgetful alike of God and of heaven. Meanwhile we, shrunk with fasting, and worn out with abstinence of every kind, cut off from all enjoyment of life, rolling in sackcloth and ashes, weary heaven with the importunity of our prayers, and reach the ear of God : and when we have thus extorted mercy, ye give honour to Jupiter, and neglect God.

CHAPTER XLI.

YE, therefore, are the causes of calamity to mankind: ye bring misfortune and evil upon the state, by despising the true God and adoring images. For it is plainly more probable that he who is neglected should be angry, rather than they who are worshipped. Or surely they are of all others the most unjust, if, for the sake of the Christians they injure even their own worshippers, whom they ought to keep separate from the offences of the Christians. But, ye will say, this is an argument which may be retorted against the God whom ye Christians worship, since he too permits his followers to be injured on account of the profane. First, however, admit the dispositions of his Providence to be what they really are, and ye will no longer turn this argument against us. For He, who hath decreed an eternal judgment once for all, after the end of this world, hastens not that separation, which is the peculiar act of judgment, until the last day. Meanwhile, he is impartial towards the whole human race, both in

his mercy and in his chastisement. His will is, that good and evil should happen alike to the profane and to the believer; that we might all alike experience both the goodness and the severity of God. Since we have been so taught of Him, we love his goodness, and fear his severity, whereas ye, on the contrary, despise both. Hence all the troubles of this world, if they happen to fall upon us, are for our admonition; if upon you, they are regarded as a punishment sent from God. All these things, however, injure us not: in the first place, because we have no further concern with this world than how we may most quickly depart from it; and also, because if we suffer any affliction, we ascribe it to your sins. And even if any of these affect us also, as being connected with you, we rather rejoice, inasmuch as we perceive in them the fulfilment of the divine predictions, which confirm the confidence and faith of our hope. But if all these evils come upon you, for our sake, from the gods whom ye worship, why do ye persevere in serving such ungrateful and unjust gods, who ought rather to assist and relieve you, to the grief and discomfort of the Christians?

CHAPTER XLII.

BUT we are called upon to answer another charge: we are said to be useless for the ordinary business of life. How can such an accusation be maintained against men who live among yourselves, using the same food and raiment and habits of living, and the same necessities of life? We are not like the Brachmans, or the Gymnosophsists of the Indians, dwellers in the woods, and exiles from ordinary life. We remember the gratitude which we owe to God our Lord and Creator. We reject no fruit of his works; albeit we are temperate, so as to use them not to excess, nor in an improper manner. Hence, while we live in this world, we frequent your market, your shambles, your baths, your taverns, your shops, your inns, your fairs, and all other places of resort. We unite with you in navigation, and in war, and in husbandry, and in trade. We give you all the benefit of our arts and of our labour. How then we can be accused of being useless to your ordinary business, when we live with you and by

you, I know not. If I frequent not your religious ceremonies, yet, on the day appointed for them, I am still a human being, as on other days. At the period of your Saturnalia, I bathe not, like yourselves, at night, lest I should lose the night and the day too: but I do yet bathe at my usual hour, which is the most salubrious, and by those means preserve the warmth of my body, and the wholesome condition of my blood. It will be time enough for me to be stiff and pale after bathing, when I am dead. At the feasts in honour of your gods, I sit not down in public to the banquet, as those unhappy men do, who take their last meal, before they are thrown to the wild beasts; but, wherever I sup, I eat of the same provisions as yourselves. I purchase no crown for my head;^a how can ye be affected with the man-

^a Tertullian, in his *Treatise de Coronâ Militis*, argues upon the impropriety of a Christian using a custom, which to him appeared to imply a culpable compliance with the forms of idolatry. In c. 5. he dwells at some length upon the subject here alluded to. *Hoc sint tibi flores, et inserti, et innexi, et in filo, et in scirpo, quod liberi, quod soluti: spectaculi scilicet et spiraculi res.* *Coronam si fortè fascem existimas florum per seriem comprehensorum, ut plures simul portes, ut omnibus pariter utaris, jam verò et in sinum conde, si tanta munditia est; in lectulum sparge, si tanta mollitia est; et in poculum crede, si tanta innocentia est.* *Tot modis fruere, quot et sentis.* *Cæterum in capite quis sapor floris? qui coronæ sensus? nisi vinculi tantum: quo neque color cernitur, neque odor ducitur, nec teneritas commendatur.*

Minucius Felix, in his *Octavius*, c. 37. (p. 114. Rigalt) imitates and explains this passage of Tertullian.

ner in which I choose to dispose of the flowers, which I yet purchase? I conceive them to be more grateful, when they are permitted to fall freely, and loosely, and without constraint. But even if we form them into a crown, we place them so as to be more agreeable to the sense of smelling. Let those give as rational an account of their custom, who act as if their hair were the organ of that sense. We assemble not, it is true, at your public spectacles: but if I require any of the conveniences, which are so frequently sold at those occasions of public resort, I prefer procuring them in their proper places. We purchase not frankincense. If the people of Arabia complain, let them remember that their spices are consumed in greater profusion, and at a higher cost, in preparing the bodies of Christians for burial, than in burning incense to your gods. "But," ye say, "the revenues of our temples continually decrease. How few now pay their appointed tribute to the gods?" This charge may be true: for we cannot afford to relieve your mendicant gods, while we succour men who are in want. Besides, we give to those only who ask.

Quis autem ille, qui dubitat vernis indulgere nos floribus, cùm capiamus et rosam veris, et lilium, et quidquid aliud in floribus blandi coloris et odoris est? His enim et sparsis utimur mollibus ac solutis, et sertis colla complectimur. Sanè quòd caput non coronamus, ignoscite. Auram boni floris nari- bus ducere, non occipitio capillis solemus haurire.

Let Jupiter, then, hold out his hand, and he shall receive; for our charity dispenses more in every street, than your religion in each temple. But tribute of every other kind is deeply indebted to the Christians, who pay that which is due, with the fidelity with which we abstain from all fraud. Whereas, if an account were kept of the injury which the commonwealth suffers by the fraud and falsehood which ye exercise, it would plainly appear, that the accurate statement, which we make, of the tribute which we owe, was much more than a compensation for any complaint which ye make upon any other point.

CHAPTER XLIII.

I WILL, however, frankly confess, that there may be some who have reason to complain of the little support, which they receive from the Christians. Among the first of these will be the vile panders and slaves of every kind of lust; in the next place, murderers, poisoners, magicians, fortunetellers, soothsayers, and astrologers. To be fruitless to such as these, is itself a great gain. Yet, whatever loss ye may incur from our religion, it may assuredly be counterbalanced by some advantage. How much are ye indebted to men—I say not now, who cast out devils from among you, I say not now, who offer prayers even for you to the true God, because perhaps ye believe nothing of this—but to men from whom ye have nothing to fear?

CHAPTER XLIV.

MEANWHILE no one pays attention to a loss, which the state is suffering, as great as it is real ; no one considers the public injury inflicted, when so many just men among us are consumed, when so many innocent suffer. For we confidently appeal to your own records, kept by those of you who preside in courts of justice, and make a distinct enumeration of the crimes of those who are brought before you. Out of so great a number of criminals as are there recorded, each with his own accusation, what murderer among them, what thief, what man guilty of sacrilege or of corrupting youth, what pilferer,* is described also as a Christian ? or when any Christians are brought before you to answer to the charge of being such, who among them is found to be like so many of your own criminals ? They are men of your own who fill your prisons ; the sighs which rise from the mines

* *Quis lavantium prædo :* what robber of clothes from baths. This was a very common crime, and punished capitally, in consequence of the facility with which it could be committed.

are breathed by men of your religion; the wild beasts feed upon your men, and the vile herds of gladiators are replenished from the same source. Among these no Christian is found, unless the name of Christian be his only offence; or if he be accused of any other crime, he hath already ceased to be a Christian.

CHAPTER XLV.

BUT, it will be asked, are we Christians, then, the only men who live innocently? What wonder is this, if it be a necessary consequence, as it really is, of the principles which we and others profess? Since it is God himself who hath taught us to live innocently, we have learned perfect obedience as revealed by a perfect master; and we faithfully keep his commandments, since they are delivered by one whose scrutiny we cannot despise. Now the opinion of man hath given the rules for your innocence; and human authority hath imposed the law. Hence your precepts are neither so full nor so authoritative as they ought to be, to establish innocence of life in all its truth. To what extent can the prudence of man reach in shewing what is truly good? What authority can it exert to enforce its commands? The one can as easily be deceived as the other despised. Thus, which is the more extensive command, that which says, Thou shalt not kill, or that which declares, Thou shalt not even be angry? Which is the more perfect, for a law to prohibit adultery, or to forbid even the impurity of an unchaste look? Whether

is it wiser to interdict the doing or the speaking evil? Whether is it more effectual to forbid injury, or not to suffer even retaliation? We have already spoken of the antiquity of Moses, that ye may know that even those very laws of yours, which may seem to tend to the encouragement of innocence of life, have borrowed their enactments from the Divine law, which is older than they.

But, after all, what is the authority of human laws? since a man may usually evade them, by escaping detection, and sometimes set them at naught, by pleading that his offence was involuntary, or compulsory: especially when it is remembered, that the punishment which they can inflict is short; since, at the worst, it is terminated by death. Thus it was that Epicurus taught men to despise all pain and torture, declaring that if it were small, it was unworthy of regard, if great, it was of short duration. Whereas we, who are to give our account to God who sees all things, and know that he will inflict eternal punishment, are justly considered the only persons who uphold innocence of life, as well from the extent of God's knowledge, as from the difficulty of escape, and the greatness of a punishment which is not only of long, but of eternal duration; for we fear Him, who ought to be the object of fear even to the judge, who condemns us; because we fear God, and not the proconsul.

CHAPTER XLVI.

WE have now, I trust, sufficiently answered every charge which hath served as a pretext for requiring the blood of the Christians. We have shewn the whole of our real condition, and by what means we can prove it to be what we assert, namely, by the fidelity and antiquity of the sacred Scriptures, and by the confession of spiritual powers. If there be any one bold enough to attempt to confute us, he must endeavour to establish the truth, not by the mere artifice of a verbal dispute, but in the same manner in which we have established our proof.

But, while our truth is made manifest to every one, the incredulity of our adversaries—being no longer able to deny the goodness of our religion, which hath already been established even with reference to the daily intercourse and transactions of life—hath recourse to the excuse, that our faith is not of divine origin, but rather a species of philosophy. The philosophers, they say, preach and profess the same virtues with yourselves, innocence,

justice, patience, sobriety, chastity. If this be true, why do we not enjoy the same impunity for professing our doctrines, which those possess, to whom we are thus compared? Or why is it, that, while we are exposed to the greatest danger, for refusing to perform certain services, they are not compelled to do the same? For who ever thought of obliging a philosopher to sacrifice, or to swear by your gods, or vainly to light candles at noon day? Yet they openly oppose the worship of your gods, and in their writings also, which ye receive with applause, inveigh against your superstitions. Many of them also receive your support while they attack your princes, and are rather honoured with statues and pensions, than sentenced to be exposed to the wild beasts; and justly so, since they are denominated philosophers, not Christians. Will this name of philosophers cast out devils? How should it do so, when philosophers place those demons in the rank of gods? It is an expression of Socrates, “If the demon permit.” The same philosopher, when he had attained some knowledge of the truth, in that he denied your gods, did yet, in his last moments, order a cock to be sacrificed to Esculapius; I suppose in honour of his father Apollo, who had pronounced Socrates the wisest of mortals. O thoughtless Apollo! he gave testimony in favour of the wisdom of the man, who denied the existence of the gods. In proportion

to the hatred to which truth is exposed, is the offence which is given by him, who faithfully maintains truth. But he who perverts and corrupts the truth, by that very action obtains the favour of those who oppose truth, by deriding and contemning it. The philosophers affect to imitate the truth, but by that very imitation they corrupt it; since they seek only vain glory. Christians, on the other hand, necessarily seek truth, and maintain it with constancy, since they regard their own salvation.

Hence we are not, as ye suppose, like the philosophers, either in our doctrine or in our discipline. For what certain knowledge did Thales, the prince of natural philosophers, give to Croesus, who enquired of him respecting the Divinity? Did he not disappoint his expectations, by requesting to delay his answer, without effect? Now the meanest Christian knows and can declare what God is; and hence he can actually show that which is sought by those who endeavour to find out God: although Plato declares that it is not easy to discover the Maker of the Universe, and most difficult, when discovered, to make him known to others.

Again, if a comparison is made between our chastity and that of the philosophers, I read a part of the sentence pronounced by the Athenians against Socrates, in which he is called a

corruptor of youth. The love of a Christian is confined to its proper and natural objects. Diogenes himself is accused of gratifying a base passion with the harlot Phryne. A certain Speusippus, of the school of Plato, is said to have perished in the act of adultery. A Christian knows none but his own wife. Democritus blinded himself, because he could not look upon women without desire, and was grieved if he could not satisfy his passion; thus declaring his incontinence, by the very means which he took to amend it. But a Christian, without injuring his eyes, looks not upon women; in his mind he is blind to lust.

If I am to defend Christians against the accusation of pride, we may see Diogenes treading upon the proud couches of Plato, with muddy feet; thus displaying, by that very action, pride of another kind: a Christian shews no pride, even towards the poor. If there is any question respecting moderation, we may appeal to Pythagoras among the Thurians, and Zeno among the people of Priene, each affecting absolute power. A Christian is not ambitious of the meanest office. If a comparison is proposed respecting the equanimity of the Christian and the philosopher; Lycurgus chose his life to be shortened, because the Spartans amended his laws; * the Christian, even when condemned to

* Tertullian gives the same account of Lycurgus in c. 4.

death, returns thanks. If a question is made respecting the fidelity of each; Anaxagoras denied a pledge to his guests; a Christian is acknowledged to be faithful, even to strangers. If I am to defend Christians upon the ground of simplicity; Aristotle made his friend Hermias disgracefully give way to himself: a Christian injures not even his enemy. The same Aristotle was as basely subservient in adulation to Alexander, whom he ought rather to have governed, as Plato was to Dionysius, for the sake of his appetite. Aristippus, under an exterior of great gravity, gave himself up to excess, clothed in purple; and Hippias was slain, while he was plotting against the state. No Christian ever had recourse to such means for his fellows, with whatever severity they may be persecuted.

But, some one will say, there are some even among ourselves, who deviate from the strict rules of our discipline. If so, we consider them Christians no longer. Whereas philosophers among yourselves, who do the like, continue to enjoy the name and distinctions attached to the wisdom which they profess.

Such, and no other, is the degree of similitude between a philosopher and a Christian; between a disciple of Greece and of heaven; between one who seeks fame, and one who strives for salvation; between one who confines himself to words, and

one who is virtuous in deeds; between one who builds, and one who destroys; between one who introduces error, and one who supports truth; between one who despoils truth, and one who preserves it.

CHAPTER XLVII.

THE antiquity of the sacred scriptures hath been already alleged in our behalf; * whence it may easily be believed, that they have been the treasure whence all real wisdom hath been extracted. And unless I were desirous of restraining my work within proper bounds, I might easily expatiate also upon this point of the proof. Who is there of the poets and sophists, who hath not drunk at the fountain of the prophets? Hence, then, the philosophers also have secretly satisfied their thirst of information. For the comparison between us and them is founded upon the fact, that they have some of our opinions. Hence, I imagine, it is, that philosophy was banished by certain laws, as, for instance, by those of Thebes, Sparta, and Argos. While men, whose only passion—as we have said—was the desire of glory and eloquence, thus endeavoured to approach to some of our tenets, if they met with any thing in the sacred scriptures with which they were offended,

* c. 19.

they immediately re-modelled them according to the dictates of their own fancy, and perverted them to serve their own purposes. They hesitated not thus to interpolate the Scriptures, since they did not sufficiently believe their divine inspiration, nor sufficiently understand that they were yet in some measure obscure, and concealed from the Jews themselves, to whom they seemed peculiarly to belong. And even where there was nothing but the simplicity of truth, yet, from this cause, the weakness of human judgment, unsupported by faith, was the more in doubt; whence they changed into uncertainty that which they found certain. For when they had simply discovered that there was a God, they were not contented to declare what they had discovered, but entered into disquisitions upon his quality and nature and the place of his abode. Some asserted that he had not a bodily shape, others that he had, as they were respectively of the Platonic or Stoic schools; others conceived that he was composed of atoms; others that he was formed from the composition of various numbers, as either Epicurus or Pythagoras was followed: others imagined he was composed of fire, as was the fancy of Heraclitus. The Platonic philosophers, again, contended that God was the governor of all things; the Epicureans, that he was inert and inactive, and a non-entity, so to speak, in human affairs. The Stoics considered

that he was placed without the world, and directed the motion of the universe as a potter that of his vessel. The Platonics imagined that he was within the world, which he directed, as a pilot steers a vessel, while remaining in it.

A similar disagreement was found in their opinions respecting the world itself; whether it were created or uncreated; whether it would or would not remain for ever: and concerning the nature of the soul, which some considered to be divine and eternal, others to be mortal: every one according to his own notions advanced his opinions, or changed those already established.

It is no wonder, indeed, if the ingenuity of philosophers perverted the Old Testament, since men sprung from them have corrupted even the New Testament by their opinions, so as to support the tenets of their philosophy: and have cut many oblique and intricate paths from the one only way. I mention this, that the well-known variety among professors of our religion may not furnish another point of resemblance between ourselves and the philosophers; and that no one may form an opinion respecting the truth, by the variety of means employed in our defence. We at once, however, remind those who forsake our doctrines, that the rule of truth is that which proceeds from Christ, and was transmitted by his companions; and all those different heretical teachers will be proved

to be somewhat later than those apostles. Every thing which is written against the truth is formed after the model of the truth, the imitation being effected by the operation of the spirits of error. By them have been established the false pretences to this wholesome discipline: by them certain fables have been introduced, which, by their likeness to the truth, might weaken the faith of believers in it, or, if possible, induce men to give credit to them; so that an enquirer might be led to think Christians unworthy of serious belief, because he disbelieved poets and philosophers; or, because he disbelieved the Christians, might be more ready to trust poets and philosophers. Hence it is, that when we preach that God will come to judge the world, we are derided; for in like manner poets and philosophers teach that there is a tribunal in the regions below. If we threaten hell, which is a secret fire laid up for punishment beneath the earth, we are equally laughed to scorn; for the heathen also have a river of fire flowing through the regions of the dead. If again we speak of Paradise, a place full of divine pleasures, prepared for the reception of the spirits of holy men, and separated from the knowledge of the world in general by means of a wall of that fiery zone; the story of the Elysian fields hath already obtained credit. Whence, then, have the philosophers and poets derived all these circum-

stances, so similar to the truth, except from our religion? If they derive them from our religion, which is the older, then our account is more faithful and more credible, since even the imitation of it obtains belief. If they derive them from their own inventions, it would follow that our religion was the image of something which was posterior to itself, which is impossible; since the shadow never precedes the substance, nor an imitation that which it represents.

C H A P T E R XLVIII.

OBSERVE then, if any philosopher should affirm, as Laberius maintains after the opinion of Pythagoras, that a man may be formed out of a mule, or a snake out of a woman, and to establish this point should display all the arts of oratory, would he not obtain the assent of some, and persuade them to abstain from animal food? And the principal ground of any one's alarm would be, lest in eating beef he should be devouring one of his ancestors. Whereas if a Christian assures you that a man shall himself be restored to life, that an individual shall be revived, it is at once received with reprobation, and the teacher is assailed not only with blows but with stones. As if whatever reason can be advanced, to prove the possibility of the transmigration of human souls into other bodies, doth not necessarily prove that they may be recalled into the same bodies; for to be again what they once were is to be recalled into the same bodies. For, if they are not what they were before, that is, endued with the very identical human body which they then possessed, they are

not the same as they once were. And if they are not the same, how can they be said to have returned to life? Either they are no longer the same, since they are become something else; or, if they remain the same, they can come from nowhere else. If we had leisure to expatiate upon this part of the question, we might here have ample room for ridicule, by enquiring into what kind of animal each man might be conceived to be changed. But what we advance is much more credible, that man will be reformed from man, each for himself, still retaining his human nature: that the same quality of the soul will be restored into the same condition although not into the same form; since the intention of judgment is to repay to every man according to his deeds. But for our argument it is rather necessary, that the very same person, who once was, should be restored to life, that he may receive from God the reward of good or evil. Hence the bodies also will re-appear; both because the soul is incapable of suffering any thing, without the intervention of solid matter, that is the flesh,* and because

* Tertullian maintains the same opinion respecting the incapability of the soul receiving impressions, except by means of the body, in his *Treatise de Testimonio Animæ*, c. 4.

Jam nunc, quod ad necessariorem sententiam tuam spectet, quantum et ad ipsum statum tuum tendit, affirmamus te manere post vitæ dispunctionem, et expectare diem judicii, proque meritis aut cruciatui destinari, aut refrigerio, utroque sempiterno. Quibus sustinendis necessario tibi substantiam pristinam, ejusdemque hominis materiam et memoriam reversuram,
quod

the souls ought not to suffer by the judgment of God without those bodies, within which all their actions were performed.

But, it will be said, how can matter which hath once been dispersed be reunited? Consider thyself, O man, and thou wilt learn how to believe the fact. Think what thou wast, before thy existence began, that is, nothing; for hadst thou been any

quod et nihil mali ac boni sentire possis sine carnis passionalis facultate, et nulla ratio sit judicii, sive ipsius exhibitione, qui meruit judicii passionem.

In his Treatises, *de Animâ*, passim, *de Resurrectione Carnis*, c. 17. *Adversus Marcion*: v. c. 15. he expresses himself somewhat differently, maintaining that the soul is itself corporeal, possessing a peculiar substance, limited by space, possessing definite dimensions and a determinate shape; in consequence of which it is capable of sensation apart from the human body. For a full account of his notions on this abstruse subject, see Bp. Kaye's *Tertullian*, c. III. pp. 190—214. In the Treatise *De Animâ*, c. 22. Tertullian thus recapitulates his opinions respecting the nature of the soul: “*Definimus Animam, Dei flatu natam, immortalem, corporalem, effigiatam, substantiam simplicem, de suo sapientem, variè procedentem, liberam arbitrii, accidentiis obnoxiam, per ingenia mutabilem, rationalem, dominatricem, divinatricem, ex unâ redundantem,*” or, in the language of his learned expositor, that the soul “derives its origin from the breath of God—that it is immortal, (in its own nature, compare *De Res. Carnis*, cc. 18, 34. 35.) corporeal; that it has a figure; is simple in substance; possessing within itself the principle of intelligence, operating in different ways (or through different channels); endued with free-will; affected by external circumstances, and thus producing that infinite variety of talent and disposition observable among mankind; rational; designed to rule the whole man; possessing an insight into futurity. Moreover the souls of all the inhabitants of the earth are derived from one common source, the soul of Adam.”

thing, thou wouldest now remember it. Since, therefore, thou wast nothing, before thou wast, and wast again reduced to nothing, when thou didst cease to be, why shouldst thou not again be brought into existence from nothing, by the will of the same great Creator who determined that thou shouldst be from nothing? What new thing will happen unto thee? Thou, who wast not, wast made; when thou shalt again have ceased to be, thou shalt again be made. If thou canst give a reason how thou wast first made, then demand a reason how thou shalt again be made. Yet thou, who hast once been, may more easily be again made, since, without difficulty thou wast made what previously thou hadst never been.^b

But some man will, perhaps, doubt respecting the power of God, who formed the vast frame of the universe from nothing, from no less than from a death of vacuity and annihilation, and animated it with a spirit which gives life to all creatures, and stamped it with examples of the resurrection of man, for a testimony to us. The light, which dies daily, shines again;^c and darkness in like manner succeeds with a constant variation: the

^b See Justin Martyr's *Apology*, c. 25. p. 201. note (u).

^c Compare the Epistle of Clement, c. 24. Bp. Pearson on the Creed, Art. xi. p. 376. adopts the same reasoning, which Tertullian uses here, and still more fully and more eloquently in his *Treatise de Resurrectione Carnis*, c. 12. "Aspice nunc ad ipsa quoque exempla divinæ potestatis. Dies moritur in noctem,

stars, which lose their light, re-appear; periods of time begin again at the point where they close; the fruits of the earth are consumed and reproduced; and seeds rise not again with increase unless they are corrupted and die: all things are preserved by dissolution, all things are renewed by perishing. Shalt thou, O man, a being of so noble a nature, if thou rightly understandest thyself even as described by the Pythian oracle, the lord of an universe of

noctem, et tenebris usqueaque sepelitur. Funestatur mundi honor: omnis substantia denigratur. Sordent, silent, stupent cuncta: ubique justitium est. Ita lux amissa lugetur: et tamen rursus cum suo cultu, cum dote, cum sole, eadem et integra et tota universo orbi reviviscit; interficiens mortem suam, noctem; rescindens sepulturam suam, tenebras; haeres sibimet existens, donec et lux reviviscat, cum suo et illa suggestu. Redaccenduntur enim et stellarum radii, quos matutina successio extinxerat. Reducuntur et siderum absentiae, quas temporalis distinctio exemerat. Redornantur et specula lunae, quae menstruus numerus attriverat. Revolvuntur hyemes et aestates, verna et autumna, cum suis viribus, moribus, fructibus. Quippe etiam terrae de celo disciplina est arbores vestire post spolia, flores denuo colorare, herbas rursus imponere, exhibere eadem quae absumpta sint semina; nec prius exhibere, quam absumpta. Mira ratio: de fraudatrice servatrix; ut reddat, intercipit; ut custodiat, perdit; ut integrat, vitiat; ut etiam ampliet, prius decoquit. Siquidem uberiora et cultiora restituit, quam exterminavit: revera fenore interitu, et injuria usurra, et lucro damno. Semel dixerim, universa conditio recidiva est. Quocunque conveneris, fuit: quocunque amiseris, nihil non iterum est. Omnia in statum redeunt, quum abscesserint: omnia incipiunt, quum desierint: ideo finiuntur, ut fiant. Nihil deperit, nisi in salutem.

Totus igitur hic ordo revolubilis rerum, testatio est resurrectionis mortuorum. Operibus eam prescrispsit Deus, ante quam literis: viribus praedicavit, ante quam vocibus."

beings which die and rise again, thyself die, merely to perish? In whatever place thy soul shall be separated from the body, whatever material means shall have destroyed thee, or swallowed thee up, or scattered thee, or reduced thee to nothing, shall again restore thee. He, who is Lord of all, can control even annihilation itself.

But, ye will object, if these things be so, we must continually die and rise again in constant succession. If such had been the will of the Lord of the universe, ye must, however unwilling, have submitted to the law of your nature. But now his will is no other than that which he hath revealed. The same Divine Reason which hath formed the universe of various substances, so that all should compose one whole, although the parts are of opposite natures,—as vacuity and solidity, animate and inanimate, comprehensible and incomprehensible, light and darkness, and even life and death,—hath also arranged the whole course of time itself in such an appointed and distinct order, that this first period of our existence, after the beginning of all things, should come to a definite end, but the future life, for which we look, should continue to all eternity.

When, then, the end, and the interval of separation which is interposed, shall have arrived,^a

^a Cùm ergo finis et limes medius, qui interhiat, affuerit, ut etiam mundi ipsius species transferatur æquè temporalis, &c.

This

and the condition of this world,—which is equally temporary, and is now spread forth as it were a curtain interrupting the prospect of that eternal disposition of all things,—shall be removed, then shall the whole human race be restored to life, to receive the good or the evil which they have deserved in that temporary life; and so will their condition be determined for the endless ages of eternity.

Hence there is no real death, nor a constant succession of resurrections; but we shall be the same persons as we are now, and shall so continue for ever; the worshippers of God, before him for ever, clothed upon^e with the peculiar substance of immortality: but the wicked, and those who have not given themselves wholly to God, in the punishment of equally eternal fire, which possesses from its very nature, which is divine, the means of continuing for ever without exhaustion. Your philosophers themselves acknowledge the difference

This is probably an allusion to the opinion of a Millennium, which Tertullian had adopted; as is evident from the fanciful account which he gives in his third Book against Marcion, c. 24., of a city which had been seen suspended in the skies in Judea for forty successive days, in the morning. This he conceived to be an image of the new Jerusalem. “Nam et confitemur in terrâ nobis regnum repromissum; sed ante cœlum, sed alio statu: utpote post resurrectionem in mille annos, in civitate divini operis Hierusalem cœlo delata, quam et Apostolus matrem nostrum sursum designat, &c.”

^e 2 Cor. v. 2. So also Lactantius vii. c. 21. Et tamen non erit caro illa, quam Deus homini superjecerit, huic terrena similis, sed insolubilis, et permanens in æternum.

between secret fire and that which is before our eyes. Thus the nature of the fire, which serves the ordinary purposes of life, is very different from that of the fire which executes the judgments of God; whether it darts lightning from heaven, or bursts forth from the earth at the tops of the mountains. For this fire consumes not that which it burns; but, while it blasts, restores the substance. Thus the mountains, which are continually burning, still remain; and a body stricken by the lightning is thenceforth secure from the flames, for it cannot be burnt.¹ This, then, may seem as a testimony of eternal fire, an example of a judgment, which constantly produces the means of punishment. The mountains burn, and continue. Much more the wicked, and the enemies of God.

¹ Ut qui de cœlo tangitur salvus est, ut nullo jam igni decinerescat.

Minucius Felix, Octavius, c. 34. p. 105. seems to have understood Tertullian as asserting that the bodies of those who are killed by lightning, are apparently uninjured.

Nec tormentis aut modus ullus, aut terminus. Illic sapiens ignis membra urit et reficit; carpit et nutrit; sicut ignes fulminum corpora tangunt, nec absumunt: sicut ignes Atnæ et Vesuvii, et ardentium ubique terrarum flagrant, nec erogantur. Ita pœnale illud incendium non damnis ardentium pascitur, sed inexesâ corporum laceratione nutritur.

CHAPTER XLIX.

SUCH are the opinions which in us alone are regarded as prejudices, but in your philosophers and poets, marks of the height of wisdom and strength of intellect. They are prudent, we foolish ; they are worthy of honour, we of ridicule, and even still further, of punishment. Suppose that the doctrines which we advocate are prejudices, and merely fanciful ; they are yet necessary : if unfounded, they are yet useful, since those who maintain them are compelled to be better men, from the fear of eternal punishment, and the hope of everlasting happiness. Those tenets, therefore, ought not to be called false or foolish, which it is the interest of every one to consider true. What is of universal benefit ought by no means to be condemned. The charge of prejudice falls upon you, for condemning that which is useful. Neither can these opinions be foolish : and even if they were both false and foolish, they yet injure no one : they are even then merely like many other notions, against which ye denounce no punishment ; fanciful

and fabulous, perhaps, but yet professed without danger of accusation or of punishment, because they are perfectly innocent. But in questions of this nature, if error is to be subject to ridicule, it at least ought not to expose us to sword and fire, to crucifixion and wild beasts; a degree of unjust cruelty, which is not only the delight of this blinded populace, but the boast of some even of yourselves, who court the favour of the people; as if all which we endure from you were not in our own power. Assuredly it is at my own option to be a Christian; ye will, therefore, then condemn me, when I am willing to be condemned. Since, therefore, all the power, which ye possess against me, ye possess not, unless I choose, your power no longer depends upon you, but upon my will. Hence also the pleasure which the people take in tormenting us is but a vain delight: for it is really our pleasure which they take to themselves, since we prefer to be so condemned, rather than to fall from God. On the other hand, they who hate us, ought rather to grieve than to rejoice, when we have attained the object of our choice.

C H A P T E R L.

“ WHEREFORE, then,” ye will say, “ do ye Christians complain that we persecute you, when ye ought to love us as the instruments by which ye attain the object of your wishes?” We are, indeed, willing to suffer; but it is with the feelings of a soldier, who would not choose to expose himself to the perils of war, but involuntarily dreads the danger, which he is compelled to encounter. He yet fights with all his might; and he, who complained of the necessity of engaging in the battle, rejoices, when he hath fought and conquered in the battle, inasmuch as he hath obtained his reward of glory, and his portion of the spoil. It is our battle, to be called before the seats of judgment, there to contend for the truth at the hazard of our lives. And it is our victory, if we obtain that for which we strive. That victory obtains the glory of pleasing God, and the reward of eternal life. But, it will be said, we fall in the contest. We do fall, but it is when the victory is won: when we are slain, we are conquerors; when we fall, we gain

the battle. Call us if you will by names of reproach,^a derived from the stake, to which we are bound, and the faggots, with which we are surrounded, when burned to death. These are our ornaments of victory; this is our robe of state; this is our triumphal chariot.

It is no wonder, then, that we should displease those whom we conquer; and hence we are regarded as men of desperate and obstinate resolution.^b But this very desperation and this inflexibility of purpose, among yourselves, raise the standard of valour in the pursuit of glory and fame. Mutius voluntarily left his hand upon the altar: what sublimity of mind! Empedocles threw himself alive into the burning abyss of Etna: what strength of courage! She who founded Carthage married herself the second time to a funeral pile: what an eulogy of chastity! Regulus, that his life might not restore many enemies to his country, endured exquisite torture in his whole body: what a brave man, what a conqueror in his very captivity! Anaxarchus, when he was beaten with staves, as barley is beaten

^a *Licet nunc sarmenticos et semaxios appelleatis, quia ad stipitem dimidii axis revincti sarmentorum ambitu exurimur.*

The martyrs, who were burned alive, were usually fastened to a stake, of about six feet in length, called Semaxis; and surrounded or covered with faggots, Sarmenta. Hence the Christians were ridiculed by these names.

^b The Christians were constantly accused of inflexible obstinacy; as, for instance, in the celebrated letter from Pliny to Trajan, at the end of the volume.

in a sack, exclaimed, “beat on, beat on, upon the case of Aristarchus, for you cannot beat Aristarchus himself:” what magnanimity in a philosopher, who could thus sport under such a death! I omit those who have laid claim to praise, by falling upon their own sword, or by choosing some milder kind of death. Ye crown with approbation even those who struggle successfully against torture. A harlot of Athens, when the executioner was weary of tormenting her, at length bit off her tongue, and spit it forth against the angry tyrant, that she might thus spit forth her voice also, and be unable to confess who the conspirators were, if she even should relent and wish to betray them. Zeno Eleates, when asked by Dionysius^c what advantages were derived from philosophy, answered, “to have such a contempt of death as to be unmoved at its approach:” and when the tyrant commanded him to be scourged, he persisted in his opinion to the very moment of his death. And doubtless the stripes which the Spartans endured with such firmness, aggravated by the presence of their nearest relatives who encouraged them, conferred honour upon their family, for the patience which was so displayed, in proportion to the blood which was shed. Here is a subject of glory, which is permitted,

^c Diogenes Laertius, in his life of Zeno Eleates, p. 645. A. says that the name of the tyrant, under whom this Zeno suffered, was either Nearchus or Diomedon.

because it appertains to human nature. Here no blame is imputed for obstinate and inflexible perverseness, when death and all kinds of torture are despised; and men are permitted to undergo for a country, for a territory, for an empire, for private friendship, what they may not undergo for God. Yet for all these ye cast statues, and write inscriptions, and engrave titles, which are intended to last for ever: and, as far as monumental records can effect the purpose, ye yourselves give them, in some measure, a resurrection after death. Yet if he, who hopes for a true resurrection from God, doth as much for God, he is considered insane.

But be attentive, most worthy judges,⁴ and ye will be in still greater favour with the people, if ye sacrifice the Christians to their fury. Torment, rack, condemn, crush us. For your injustice is the proof of our innocence. God permits us to suffer these things for that very purpose. For, on a late occasion, when ye sentenced a Christian woman to pollution, rather than to the lion,⁵ ye confessed that, in our estimation, the loss of chastity was more to be dreaded than any punishment, or any kind of death. Yet the most exquisite cruelty, which ye can devise, avails you nothing, but rather

⁴ Hoc agite, boni præsides.

An allusion to the religious formula of the Romans, *Hoc age*; as in c. 30. p. 412. note (d).

⁵ Ad leonem damnando Christianam potius quam ad leonem.

induces the more to become Christians. As often as we are cut down by your persecutions, we spring up the more abundantly: the blood of Christians is the seed of the faith.

Among yourselves, many have given exhortations to the patient endurance of pain and death; as Cicero in his Tusculan Disputations, Seneca in his Treatise on Accidents, Diogenes, Pyrrho, and Callinicus. Yet none of these verbal exhortations ever gained so many followers, as the Christians have obtained by the instruction which their actions have delivered. That very obstinacy, which ye blame, is the best teacher. For who is there that witnesses it, without being irresistibly led to enquire, what inward principle produces it? Who, when he hath so enquired, doth not embrace it? when he hath embraced it, is not himself anxious to suffer? that he may pay the utmost debt of gratitude to God, and obtain the fullest pardon from him by the sacrifice of his own blood? for to the martyr all his sins are remitted. Hence it is that we return thanks to you for the sentence which ye pronounce: for then there is a contest between things human and things divine, when we are condemned by you, and pardoned by God.

NOTE (A.)

ON THE EPISTLE OF CLEMENT, c. v. p. 6.

On the Preaching of St. Paul in the West.

THIS is the earliest account of the preaching of St. Paul, after the close of that part of his history, which is recorded in the Acts of the Apostles. The testimony of Clement, the fellow labourer of St. Paul in the work of the Gospel, (Phil. iv. 3.) is very valuable, and proves that at least a part of the Apostle's labours was directed to the West of Europe.

To form a judgment respecting the extent of his travels, it is necessary to consider what time probably elapsed between the termination of his two years' residence in Rome, (Acts xxiv. 10.) and his martyrdom: and, consequently, to fix the date of his first visit to Rome, which took place nearly at the time when Felix was recalled from the government of Judea. (Acts xxiv. 27.)

To this journey different dates are assigned by different writers.

Eusebius and Jerome, (Eusebius, Chronicon; Jerome, Catalogus Scrip. Eccles. Tom. iv. Part II. p. 103. Benedict. edit.) who are followed by Scaliger, Cave, Stillingfleet and others, fix upon the second year of Nero, A.D. 56. Bp. Pearson, in his Annales Paulini, places this visit in the sixth year of Nero, A.D. 60. Hale, in his Analysis of Chronology, fixes upon the seventh of Nero, A.D. 61. And Abp. Usher places the event as late as the ninth year of Nero, A.D. 63.

The earliest of these dates appears to correspond very well with the period of the recall of Felix. Josephus (Ant. xx. c. 8, 9.) says that Felix would have been punished for his misconduct, had he not been pardoned at the intercession of his brother Pallas, who was then at the height of his favour with Nero. Tacitus (Annal. xii. 54.) shews how dependent Felix was upon the power of his brother.

Now Pallas was himself dismissed by Nero, in the second year of his reign; (*Tacit. Ann. xiii. 14.*) was soon after brought to trial for treason, (*Ibid. c. 23.*) and was put to death in the ninth year of Nero. (*Tacit. Ann. xiv. 65.*) It is probable that Pallas, who was intimate with Agrippina, (*Tacit. Ann. xii. 25. xiv. 2.*) was not restored to the favour of Nero, until after her death, in the fifth year of Nero. If, therefore, the pardon of Felix was obtained by the intercession of Pallas with Nero, his recall probably took place as early as the second year of Nero.

If we assume, however, that Eusebius and Jerome were correct in assigning the second year of Nero as the date of St. Paul's first journey to Rome, his release would take place about the fifth year of Nero, probably in consequence of favours shewn to prisoners and exiles, after the murder of Agrippina. (*Massutius de Vitâ Pauli, l. 13. c. 1.*) And he was put to death during the persecution which began in the eleventh year of Nero, and continued four years. Eusebius and Jerome say that he suffered in the fourteenth year of Nero.

This computation would leave a space of about eight years for the labours of St. Paul, after his first imprisonment at Rome; an opportunity which he doubtless employed with his characteristic energy and activity.

It was during these years, then, that St. Paul, according to Clement, visited "the furthest extremity of the West."

Hales, in his Chronology (Vol. III. p. 546. edit. 2.) thinks that Clement here "speaks rather rhetorically of St. Paul's travels to the western extremity of Europe." And Basnage (*Exercitationes Historico-criticae, p. 511.*) conceives that he means no more than St. Paul visited Italy. "Mihi certum non Hispaniam, sed Italianam à Clemente designari." Considering, however, that Clement wrote at Rome, we cannot but consider his words as referring to some country included under the Western provinces with respect to Rome. And the general current of ecclesiastical history plainly points to Spain, as one of the countries which he visited, in compliance with an intention which he himself expressed. (*Rom. xvi. 24. 28.*)

The evidence in favour of St. Paul having visited Spain appears quite conclusive.

Caius, the Presbyter, in the beginning of the third century, says that "writings not included in the canon of Scripture

expressly mention the journey of St. Paul from Rome into Spain."^a Hippolytus, in the same century, says, that "St. Paul went as far as Illyricum, and Italy, and Spain, preaching the Gospel."^b Athanasius, in the fourth century, that St. Paul "did not hesitate to go to Rome and to Spain."^c Jerome, in the same century, says, that "St. Paul, after his release from his trial before Nero, preached the Gospel in the Western parts."^d And Theodoret, in the fifth century, that "when, in consequence of his appeal to Cæsar, he (St. Paul) was sent to Rome by Festus, and was acquitted on his defence, he went to Spain, and carried the light of the Gospel to other nations."^e

The expressions of Clement, however—ἐπὶ τὸ τέρμα τῆς δύσεως ἔλθων—have been supposed to imply that the Apostle's preaching did not terminate in Spain, but extended to the British Islands. Those who entertain this opinion observe, that in the language of that period, Britain is often called the extremity of the West. Thus Plutarch, in his life of Cæsar, denominates the sea between Gaul and Britain, "the Western Ocean:" Eusebius and Nicephorus give the same name to the

^a Sicut et semota passionem Petri evidenter declarant, sed et profectionem Pauli ab urbe ad Spaniam proficiscentis. Caii Presbyteri fragmentum : Reliquiae Sacre, Vol. iv. pp. 4, 37.

^b Παῦλος δὲ μετ' ἐνιαυτὸν ἔνα τῆς τοῦ Χριστοῦ ἀναλήψεως εἰσῆλθεν εἰς τὴν ἀποστολὴν, καὶ ἀρξάμενος ἀπὸ Ἱερουσαλὴμ, προῆλθεν ἔντε τοῦ Ἰλλυρικοῦ καὶ Ἰταλίας καὶ Σπανίας κηρύσσων τὸ εὐαγγέλιον ἐπὶ λέ. Ἐπὶ δὲ Νέρωνος, ἐν Ρώμῃ τὴν κεφαλὴν ἀποτιμθεῖς, θάντεται ἑκεῖ.

Hippolytus de xii Apostolis, Appendix, p. 31. Edit. Fabricii.

There is some doubt whether this tract was written by Hippolytus the Martyr. At all events, it contains little more information than could be collected or conjectured from the Acts of the Apostles, and the Epistle to the Romans. The same remark applies to the subsequent passage of Athanasius.

^c Διὰ τοῦτο καὶ σκονδῆ τῶν ἀγίων μέχρι τοῦ Ἰλλυρικοῦ κηρυττεῖ, καὶ μὴ δύνει, μηδὲ εἰς τὴν Ρώμην ἀπελθεῖν, μηδὲ εἰς τὰς Σπανίας διαβῆναι.

Athanas. Epist. ad Dracontium, Tom. i. p. 956. A. Edit. Paris, 1627.

^d Sciendum autem in primā satisfactione, necdum Neronis imperio robato, nec in tanta erumpente scelera, quanta de eo narrant historiæ, Paulum à Nerone dimissum, ut Evangelium Christi in Occidentis quoque partibus prædicaretur, sicut ipse scribit in secundâ Epistolâ ad Timotheum, eo tempore quo et passus est, de vinculis dictans Epistolam. (2 Tim. iv. 16.)

Hieron. Catalogus Scriptor. Eccles. Num. v. Tom. iv. Par. ii. p. 105
Edit. Benedict.

^e Ἡνικα τῇ ἐφέσει χρησάμενος εἰς τὴν Ρώμην ὑπὸ τοῦ Φήστον παρέπεμφθη, ἀπολογισάμενος ὡς ἀδύος ἀφείθη, καὶ τὰς Σπανίας κατέλαβε, καὶ εἰς ἔτερα ἐθνη δράμων, τὴν τῆς διδασκαλίας λαμπτάδα προσήνεγκε.

Theodoret in Epist. ii. ad Timoth. iv. 7.

British Ocean: (Euseb. *Vita Constant.* I. cc. 25, 41. II. c. 28. Niceph. *Hist. Lib.* i. c. 1.) and Eusebius elsewhere (*De Martyr. Palæstin.* c. 13.) describes Britain, under the appellation of the Western parts, beyond Gaul. Theodoret also, speaking of the visitors attracted by the fame of Simeon Stylites, enumerates the inhabitants of Spain, Britain, and Gaul, which he says lies between the other two, and describes them all as dwelling in the extreme bounds of the west.^f In the language of Catullus, Britain is "Ultima Britannia," and "Ultima Occidentis Insula." (*Carm. xxix.*) He speaks of the inhabitants as "horribilesque ultimosque Britannos; (*Carm. xi.*) as Horace afterwards calls them "Ultimos orbis Britannos." (*Carm. i. 35.*)

The language of Clement might very well therefore imply that St. Paul went not only to Spain, but to the most remote of the three Western provinces, Spain, Gaul, and Britain.

There is distinct evidence that the Gospel was preached in the British Islands by *some of the Apostles*. Thus Tertullian, in the second century, speaks of "all the extremities of Spain, and the different nations of Gaul, and parts of Britain inaccessible to the Romans, but subject to Christ." See Tertullian's *Apology*, c. 37. p. 430. note. The testimony of Eusebius to the same fact is peculiarly valuable. As the favourite of Constantine, the first Christian Emperor, who was born in Britain and there proclaimed Emperor, he may be supposed to have been well acquainted with the manner in which Christianity was introduced into Britain. And the remarkable passage in his *Demonstratio Evangelica*, in which he not only asserts the fact, that some of the Apostles preached in Britain, but argues upon the fact, may be regarded as a deliberate assertion, founded upon actual enquiry. His object is to prove that the first preachers of Christianity were not deceivers nor impostors. "Observe," he says, "this also. If they were impostors and deceivers, and also uninstructed and entirely ignorant men, nay, rather barbarians, acquainted with no other than the Syrian language, how could they ever go through the whole world? How could so bold an undertaking enter their thoughts? and by what power could they effect their purpose? For, supposing it possible for rustic men, wandering

^f ἀφίκοντο δὲ πολλοὶ, τὰς τῆς ἐσπέρας οἰκουμένης ἐσχατάς, Σπάνοι τε καὶ Βρεττανοὶ, καὶ Γαλάται, οἱ τὸ μέσον τούτων κατέχοντες.

Theodoret. *Religiosa Hist.* c. 26. Tom. iii. p. 881. D. Edit. Paris, 1642.

about in their own country, to deceive and be deceived, and not to waste their labour in vain ; yet, that they should preach the name of Jesus to all mankind, and teach his miraculous works in country and city,—that some of them should visit the Roman Empire, and the imperial city itself, and others severally the nations of the Persians, and Armenians, and Parthians, and Scythians—nay, further, that some should proceed to the very extremities of the inhabited world, and reach the country of the Indians, *and others again pass over the Ocean to those which are called the British Islands*—all this I conceive to be beyond the power of any human being, not to say of ordinary and uninstructed men, and, still less, of deceivers and impostors.”^a

Theodoret goes further than this, asserting that *St. Paul* preached in islands beyond the Ocean, with respect to Spain ; which can scarcely refer to any other than the British Islands. “The blessed Apostle St. Paul teaches us, in a few words, to how many nations he carried the sacred doctrines of the Gospel ; so that from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, he fully preached the Gospel of Christ. He went afterwards also to Italy and Spain, and carried salvation to islands which lie in the Ocean.”^b

a Ἐτι δὲ καὶ τούτῳ πρόσχεται. Εἰ δὴ καὶ αὐτοὶ πλανοὶ καὶ ἀπατεῶντες ἔτυγχανον, προσθές δ’ ὅτι καὶ ἀπαίδεντος καὶ παντελῶς ἴδιωται, μᾶλλον δὲ ὅτι καὶ βάρβαροι, καὶ τῆς Σύρων οὐ πλέον ἐπαίσουτες φωνῆς, καὶ τῶς ἐπὶ πᾶσαν προηῆθον τὴν οἰκουμένην ; η̄ ποιὰ τοῦτο διανοὶς ἐφαντήσθοσαν τολμῆσαι ; ποιὰ δὲ δυνάμει τὸ ἐπιχειρήθεν κατωρθώσαν ; Βεστω γάρ ἐτὶ τῆς οἰκείας γῆς καλινδουμένους δυροίκους δύναται πλανᾶν καὶ πλανᾶσθαι, καὶ μηδ ἐφ’ ησυχίας βάλλεσθαι τὸ πράγμα. Κηρύγγειος δὲ εἰς πάντας τὸ τοῦ Ἰησοῦ δόνομα, καὶ τὰς παραδόσους πράξεις αὐτοῦ κατὰ τε τοὺς δυροὺς καὶ κατὰ πόλιν διδάσκειν, καὶ τὸν μὲν αὐτῶν τὴν Ὄματον δρῆγην, καὶ αὐτῶν τε τὴν βασιλικωτάτην πόλιν νείμασθαι, τὸν δὲ τὴν Περσῶν, τοῦν δὲ τὴν Ἀρμενίων, ἐτέρουν δὲ τὸ Πάρθων ἔθνος, καὶ ἀν πέδαιν τὸ Σκυθῶν, τινὰς δὲ ἡδη καὶ ἐπ’ αὐτὰ τῆς οἰκουμένης ἀλθεῖν τὰ ἀκρα, ἐπὶ τε τὴν Ἰνδῶν φθάσαι χάραν, καὶ ἐτέρουν ὑπὲρ τὸν Ὁκεανὸν παρελθεῖν ἐπὶ τὰς καλουμένας Βρετανικὰς νῆσους, ταῦτα οὐκ ἐπ’ ἄγονα γε ἥγουμαι κατὰ δινθρωπον εἶναι, μῆτυγε κατὰ εὐτελεῖς καὶ ἴδιωτας, πολλοῦ δεῖ κατὰ πλάνους καὶ γόντας.

Euseb. Demonst. Evang. Lib. iii. p. 112. D. Colonis, 1688.

b Ο δὲ μακάριος Παῦλος διδάσκει συντόμως, δοὺς ἔθνεσι προσενήνοχε τὰ θεῖα κηρύγματα ὥστε ἀπὸ Ιερουσαλήμ κύκλῳ μέχρι τοῦ Ἰλλυρικοῦ πετληρωτέναι τὸ εὐαγγελίον τοῦ Χριστοῦ.——ὕστερον μέτοι καὶ τῆς Ἰταλιάς ἐπέβη, καὶ εἰς τὰς Σπανιας ἀφίκετο, καὶ ταῖς ἐν τῷ πελαγεῖ διακειμέναις νῆσοις τὴν αἱφελέαν προσήνεγκε. He then refers to St. Paul’s Epistle to the Romans, xv.

Theodoret in Psalm cxvi. Tom. i. pp. 870. D. 871. A.

Jerome also, besides the passage quoted above, appears to allude, though with less precision than Theodoret, to St. Paul's preaching beyond the ocean; when he says, that "St. Paul, having been in Spain, went from one ocean to another, imitating the motion and course of the Sun of righteousness, of whom it is said, His going forth is from the end of heaven, and his circuit unto the ends thereof; and that his diligence in preaching extended as far as the earth itself."¹

The earliest writer, however, who in express terms asserts that St. Paul visited Britain, is Venantius Fortunatus, an Italian poet of the sixth century. In the third book of his life of St. Martin, he thus describes the preaching of St. Paul:

Transit et Oceanum, vel quā facit insula portum,
Quasque Britannus habet terras, quasque ultima Thule.

This is plainly, however, a poetical expression, on which no stress whatever can be laid. And very little more weight can be attached to the testimony of Sophronius, patriarch of Jerusalem, in the seventh century, as quoted by Godwin, asserting that St. Paul visited Britain.^k

Upon the whole, it seems clear, that St. Paul preached "in the West," including Spain, in the interval between the termination of his imprisonment in Rome, and his martyrdom: that the Gospel was preached in *Britain* by some of the Apostles; that the terms in which the field of St. Paul's preaching is described, may include the British Islands, and that there was probably time for his visiting them. But whether he actually did so, may reasonably admit of much doubt. Archbishop Usher, in his *Britannicarum Ecclesiarum Antiquitates*, and Bishop Stillingfleet, in his *Origines Britannicæ*, maintain the opinion that St. Paul preached in Britain. The same side of the question has lately found a learned and zealous advocate in

¹ Paulus Apostolus——qui vocatus à Domino effusus est super faciem universæ terræ, ut prædicaret Evangelium de Jerosolymis usque ad Illyricum, et ædificaret non super alterius fundamentum, ubi jam fuerit prædicatum, sed usque ad Hispanias tenderet, et mari rubro imò ab Oceano usque ad Oceanum curreret, imitans Dominum suum et solem justitiæ, de quo legimus, A summo cœlo egressio ejus, et occursum ejus usque ad summum ejus: ut antè eum terra deficeret quām studium prædicandi.

Hieron. in Amos Prophet. c. v. Tom. III. p. 1412. Edit. Benedict.

^k "Sophronius Patriarcha Hierosolymitanus disertis verbis asserit, Britaniam nostram eum invisisse."

Godwin de Præsul. p. 8.

the Bishop of Salisbury. His tracts on the origin and independence of the Ancient British Church, and his two Sermons, the one preached at the Anniversary Meeting of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge and Church Union in the Diocese of St. David's, in the year 1813 ; the other preached, in the year 1831, before the Royal Society of Literature, contain the principal facts and arguments connected with the question.

The Bishop of London, in his viiith Lecture on the Acts of the Apostles, leans to the opinion of Jablonski, (Opusc. T. III. p. 301) that the preaching of St. Paul in Britain is extremely improbable.

NOTE (B.)

ON THE EPISTLE OF CLEMENT, c. xvi. p. 16.

As early as the middle of the ninth century, Photius, Patriarch of Constantinople, objected to Clement of Rome that he had not used terms sufficiently elevated and sufficiently significative, in speaking of the divine nature of Christ, although he nowhere speaks decidedly against it. (*ὅτι ἀρχιερέα καὶ προστάτην τὸν Κύριον ήμων Ἰησοῦν Χριστὸν ἐξονομάζων, οὐδὲ τὰς θεοπρεπεῖς καὶ ψυχηλοτέρας ἀφῆκε περὶ αὐτοῦ φωναῖς οὐ μὴν οὐδὲ ἀπαρακαλύπτως αὐτὸν οὐδαμῇ ἐν τούτοις βλασφημεῖ.* Photius Bibl. Cod. 126.) Assertions of the same nature have been more strongly repeated by later writers.

It was scarcely to be expected that the language of Clement upon this point should be so guarded, as that which was used after controversies had arisen upon the question. But,—without referring to his second Epistle, which is certainly free from any such objection—there are passages enough in his first Epistle to shew that Photius does not accurately represent the sentiments of Clement, if indeed he intended to imply a doubt of his belief of the divine nature of Christ.

Thus in c. 2. of this Epistle we find the words—*τοῖς ἐφοδίοις τοῦ Θεοῦ ἀρκούμενοι, καὶ προσέχοντες τοὺς λόγους αὐτῶν ἐπιμελῶς, ἐστερνισμένοι ἡτε τοῖς σπλάγχνοις, καὶ τὰ παθήματα αὐτοῦ ἦν πρὸ ὄφθαλμων ὑμῶν.* c. 2. (Compare Acts xx. 28. *ποιμαίνειν τὴν ἐκκλησιάν τοῦ Θεοῦ, ἦν περιποίεσθαι διὰ τῶν ἰδίους αἴματος*). In c. 36. Clement denominates Christ, *ἀπαγγασμα τῆς μεγαλωσύνης αὐτοῦ* (Θεοῦ) c. 36. In c. 32. he thus

distinguishes the divine nature of Christ from his human nature, ἐξ αὐτοῦ (Ισραὴλ) ὁ Κύριος Ἰησοῦς τὸ κατὰ σάρκα.— Compare Rom. ix. 5. And, in the passage above, c. 16. Clement expressly says of Christ, perhaps with an allusion to Phil. ii. 5—8. Τὸ σκῆπτρον τῆς μεγαλωσύνης τοῦ Θεοῦ, ὁ Κύριος ἡμῶν Χριστὸς Ἰησοῦς, οὐκ ἥλθεν ἐν κόμπῳ ἀλαζονείας, οὐδὲ ὑπερηφανίας, καίπερ δυνάμενος ἀλλὰ ταπεινοφρονῶν. See Bp. Bull, *Defensio Fid. Nicæn.* Sect. II. c. 3.

The sentiments, here expressed by Clement, are set forth with great eloquence in the Epistle to Diognetus, improperly ascribed to Justin Martyr. The passage is long, but so beautiful that I cannot forbear subjoining it.

The author of the Epistle, after shewing the insufficiency of sacrifices and ritual observances, such as the Jews retained, proceeds thus to vindicate and explain the Christian faith. (p. 496, D.)

“ The Christians are not separated from the rest of mankind by country, or by language, or by customs. They are confined to no particular cities, use no peculiarity of speech, adopt no singularity of life. Their doctrine embraces no tenet built upon the reasoning and subtlety of crafty men: neither do they, like others, uphold the opinion of any man. Dwelling in the cities, whether of Greeks or barbarians, as every man's lot is cast, following the customs of each country in dress, and diet, and manner of life, they yet display the wonderful and indeed astonishing nature of their own polity. They dwell in their own country; but as sojourners: they partake of all things, as denizens: they endure all things, as strangers. Every foreign land is their country; their own country is to each a foreign land. Like other men they marry, and have children: but their children they expose not. Their table is common, not their bed.^a They are in the flesh; but they live not after the flesh. They abide on earth, but they are citizens of heaven.^b They obey the laws which are established; and in their own lives are superior to the laws. They love all men; and are persecuted by all. Men know them not, yet condemn them. Being slain they are made alive: being poor, they make many

^a There are here some words lost: *τράπεζαν κοινὴν παρατίθενται, ἀλλ' κοινὴν.* Perhaps we should supply some such expression as *δλλ' οὐ κοιτην κοινὴν.* Compare Tertullian, *Apol.* c. xxxix. p. 439.

^b Phil. iii. 20.

rich: deprived of all things, in all things they abound. Being dishonoured, they are thereby glorified: being calumniated, they are justified: being cursed, they bless: being reviled, they give honour. Doing good, they are punished as evil doers; when punished, they rejoice, as being made alive. The Jews oppose them as a strange people: the Greeks persecute them; and they who hate them can allege no reason for their enmity.

In a word, Christians are in the world what the soul is in the body. The soul is dispersed over all the members of the body: Christians over all the cities of the world. The soul dwells in the body, but is no part of the body: Christians dwell in the world, but are not of the world. The soul, invisible herself, is guarded in a visible body: Christians are known to be in the world, but their worship is unseen. The flesh hates the soul, which never injured it, and wars against it, because it is thereby prevented from indulging in its pleasures. The world hates Christians, who injure it not, because they are opposed to its delights. The soul loves the body and the members which hate her. Christians also love their enemies. The soul is inclosed in the body, yet she restrains the body. Christians are shut up and guarded in the world, yet they restrain the world. The soul, herself immortal, dwells in a mortal tabernacle. Christians dwell among the corruptible, looking for an incorruptible state in the heavens. The soul, straitened in meats and drinks, is thereby improved. Christians, persecuted daily, the more abound.

In such a post hath God placed them, whence they must not retire. For this is no earthly invention which is committed to their trust: it is no mortal device which they guard with such jealous care; no dispensation of human mysteries which is entrusted to them. But even the Almighty, Invisible God, the Creator of all things, himself sent down from heaven the Truth, and the holy and incomprehensible Word, to dwell among men, and established Him in their hearts. Not, as some one might suppose, sending among men any minister, or angel, or archangel, or any of those who do his pleasure upon earth, or are entrusted with their ministry in the heavens; but [he sent] the very Framer and Maker of all things; by whom he created the heavens: by whom he shut up the sea in its own

* 2 Cor. vi. 10.

bounds: whose secret counsels all the elements faithfully obey: who taught the sun to keep the measure of his daily course: who commanded the moon to shine by night, and she obeys; whom the stars too obey, following the moon in her course: by whom all things are disposed and arranged: to whom all things are subject; the heavens, and things in the heavens; the earth and things in the earth; the sea and they which are therein; fire, air, the abyss: things in the heights, things in the depths, things between. Him did he send to them [man.] But did he send him, as some men might imagine, for dominion and fear and consternation? Nay, verily: but in quietness and meekness. He sent him as a king sending his son: he sent him as God:^a he sent him as to men. God, in sending him, would save mankind: he would persuade men, not compel them; for compulsion is not of God. In sending him, God would invite, not persecute; he acted as one who loved, not as a judge. For he will send *Him* to judge, and who shall abide the day of his coming?"

After discussing the impossibility that any one should know God but the Son of God, or any one please God by his own works, the author proceeds to speak of the love of God, manifested in the redemption. (p. 500 B.)

"Christ hated us not, nor rejected us; neither did he remember our sins, but was long-suffering, patient; as he himself declared, he bare our iniquities. God gave his own son a ransom for us, the holy for the unholy, the innocent for the guilty, the just for the unjust, the incorruptible for the corruptible, the immortal for the mortal. For what else was able to cover our sins but only his righteousness? How should we disobedient and impious be justified, but only in the Son of God? O sweet interchange! O inscrutable dispensation! O benefits surpassing all expectation! that the iniquity of many should be hidden in the Just One; and the righteousness of one justify many sinners. [God,] having convinced us, in the former time, how impossible it was that our nature should attain life, but now having shewn us a Saviour able to save even those who could not have been saved, from both these willed us to have faith in his mercy; to conceive of him as our supporter, father, teacher, counsellor, physician, mind, light, honour, glory, strength, life."

^a οὐκ Θεὸν ἐπενέψε.

NOTE (C.)

ON IGNATIUS'S EPISTLE TO THE MAGNESIANS.

SECT. viii. p. 91.

Λόγος αἰώνιος, οὐκ ἀπὸ σιγῆς προέλθων.

THIS passage has given rise to much discussion: some contending that it has reference to the Sige, or Silence, of Valentinus, others that it relates to the erroneous opinions of other heretics, anterior to Valentinus: and others, again, that the words refer to no specific heresy, but simply guard against an error which might arise in consequence of Jesus Christ being styled the Word of God.

The sense of the passage seems to be this. Jesus Christ is the Eternal Word, proceeding from the Father. But this procession must not be confounded with any act of the human faculties. The word, by which the thoughts of man are made known, arises in consequence of a previous mental act; and before man's word goes forth, it is preceded by a state of silence. But, in this respect, the analogy, between the procession of the Word from the Father, and the springing forth of the word from the mind of man, entirely fails. The Word of God was Eternal, and there was no period preceding the procession of the Word from the Father, corresponding to the silence which exists before the word of man is pronounced.

Irenæus, in exposing the fanciful and impious tenets of the different sects of Gnostics, expresses the same sentiment, on more than one occasion. Thus, Lib. ii. cap. 18. he says, "Sed quoniam quidem reprobabilis et impossibilis prima Noos, id est sensus ipsorum, emissio est, manifestè ostendimus. Videamus autem et de reliquis. Ab hoc enim Logon et Zoën fabricatores hujus Pleromatis dicunt emissos, et Logi, id est Verbi, quidem emissionem ab hominum affectione accipientes, et addivinantes adversus Deum, quasi aliquid magnum adinvenientes

in eo quod dicunt à Nu (Νοῦ) esse emissum Logon: quod quidem omnes videlicet sciunt, quoniam in hominibus quidem consequenter dicatur, in eo autem qui sit super omnes Deus, totus Nus, et totus Logus cùm sit, quemadmodum prædiximus, et nec aliud antiquius, nec posterius, aut aliud alterius habente in se, sed toto æquali et uno perseverante, jam non talis hujus ordinationis sequetur emissio. Quemadmodum qui dicit eum totum visionem, et totum auditum, (in quo enim videt, in ipso et audit; et in quo audit, in ipso et videt) non peccat: sic et qui ait totum illum sensum, et totum verbum, et in quo sensus est, in hoc et verbum esse, et verbum ejus esse hunc Nun (Νοῦ) minus quidem adhuc de Patre omnium sentiet, *decentiora autem magis quam hi, qui lationem prolativi hominum verbi transferunt in Dei eternum Verbum, et prolationis initium donantes, et genesis, quemadmodum et suo verbo.*

And in a subsequent part of the same chapter;

Et usque hoc quidem, quemadmodum prædiximus, omnes hominum affectiones, et notiones mentis, et generationes intentionum et emissiones verborum conjicientes verisimiliter, non verisimiliter mentiti sunt adversus Deum.

In another place (Lib. ii. cap. 47) he approaches still more nearly the sense of this passage of Ignatius;

“Hæc autem cæcitas et stultiloquium inde provenit nobis, quod nihil Deo reservetis; sed et ipsius Dei, et Ennœæ ejus, et Verbi, et Vitæ, et Christi nativitates et prolationes annunciare vultis: et has non aliunde accipientes, sed ex affectione hominum: et non intelligitis quia in homine quidem, qui est compositum animal, capit hujusmodi dicere, sicut prædiximus, (Lib. ii. 16.) sensum hominis, et Ennœam hominis: et quia ex sensu Ennœa, de Ennœa autem Enthymesis, de Enthymesi autem Logos: (quem autem Logon? aliud enim est secundum Græcos Logos, quod est principale quod excogitat, aliud organum per quod emittitur Logos:) et aliquando quidem quiescere et tacere hominem, aliquando autem loqui et operari. Deus autem cùm sit totus mens, totus ratio, et totus spiritus operans, et totus lux, et semper idem et similiter existens, sicut et utile est nobis sapere de Deo, et sicut ex Scripturis discimus, non jam hujusmodi affectus et divisiones decenter erga eum subsequentur. Velocitati enim sensu hominum, proper spiritale ejus, non sufficit lingua deservire, quippe carnalis existens: unde et intus suffugatur verbum nostrum, et profertur non de semel,

sicut conceptum est à sensu; sed per partes, secundum quod lingua subministrare prævalet."

It has been conceived that Ignatius, in this passage, had a particular reference to the heresy of Valentinus, whose notions of the procession of the Logos from Sige are well known. This appears highly improbable; although Victorinus and Rupertus say that Valentinus taught his heresy during the life of the Apostle St. John. The latest period fixed for the death of Ignatius is A.D. 116: and, according to Tertullian de Præscriptione Hæreticorum, cap. 30. Valentinus was living when Eleutherius was Bishop of Rome, which was at least as late as A.D. 185, or seventy years after the death of Ignatius. Unless, therefore, Valentinus lived to be nearly a hundred years old, he could scarcely have begun to disseminate his doctrines before the death of Ignatius. There is, however, no occasion to make the supposition that Ignatius alludes to the peculiar tenets of Valentinus. Irenæus, Lib. i. 5. Tertullian, de Præscriptione Hæret. cap. 33. 46. 47. Adversus Valentinianos, cap. 3, 4. and other authorities, shew that Valentinus, in many of his absurd notions, merely adopted opinions which had been propagated by the Gnostics, Nicolaitans, Simonians, and other heretics. Eusebius de Ecclesiasticâ Theologiâ, Lib. ii. cap. 9. expressly alludes to Simon Magus, as holding the impious opinion, that there was a time when "God and silence alone were." (ἀδὲ Μάρκελλος ἐτόλμα ὑποτίθεσθαι, πάλαι μὲν λέγων εἶναι τὸν Θεὸν, καὶ τινὰ Ἡσυχίαν ἀμα τῷ θεῷ ὑπογράφων ἔαυτῷ κατ' αὐτὸν ἐκεῖνον τῶν ἀθέων αἱρεσιωτῶν ἀρχηγὸν, ὃς τὰ ἀθεα δογματίζων ἀπεφαίνετο λέγων, ἦν Θεος καὶ Σιγή.) And that this passage refers to Simon Magus is plain from Euseb. H. E. ii. 13. where he speaks of him in the very same terms: πασῆς μὲν οὖν ἀρχηγὸν αἱρέσεως πρῶτον γένεσθαι τὸν Σίμωνα παρειλήφαμεν.

Bp. Pearson, in his Vindiciæ Ignatianæ, contends that, although it cannot be positively proved that Ignatius was entirely unacquainted with the tenets of Valentinus himself, yet the words in question have no reference to that heretic, but are aimed at the opinions of the Ebionites, received from the older Gnostics.

Bp. Bull, in his Defensio Fidei Nicænæ, Sect. iii. cap. 1. examines this passage at length, and arrives at a conclusion somewhat different from that of Bp. Pearson. He is of opinion,

that the heresy opposed by Ignatius is that of the Judaizing Gnostics, of whom Cerinthus was the chief. This conclusion is founded upon a most careful investigation of the whole passage. It is plain, he thinks, from the context, that the heretics whom Ignatius opposes are one and the same, throughout the whole of this portion of his Epistle: that, since these heretics maintained that the law of Moses was still binding upon Christians, a tenet never ascribed to Valentinus, they were certainly not Valentinians; and although this error was maintained by the Ebionites, yet that there are other points which evidently refer to some other heretics than they. Thus, the Ebionites had no philosophical notions respecting the procession of the Word from the Father, which Ignatius appears to refute, when he says that "the Word proceeds not from silence." Again, his exhortation, in Sect. 7, that they should come "as unto one Jesus Christ, who proceedeth from one Father, and exists in One and is returned to One," is a manifest allusion to the Cerinthian Gnostics, who held that Jesus and Christ were two persons; that Christ descended and entered into Jesus at his baptism, and before his passion returned into the pleroma: and that the Father of *Jesus* was the Demiurge, who made the world, but the Father of *Christ* was a higher power. The words in Sect. 8. "for this cause they were persecuted, being inspired by his grace fully to convince the unbelievers that there is One God, who hath manifested himself by Jesus Christ his Son," refer also to the errors of the Gnostics, who maintained that the world was created either by angels or by a being different and inferior to the supreme God, who revealed himself to mankind by Christ, his Son. Iren. iii. 11. Bp. Bull is therefore of opinion that Ignatius in the words, "not proceeding from silence," intended to oppose some erroneous notions of the same heretics concerning the procession of the Son from the Father; as in Sect. 9. he clearly refers to another error of the Judaizing heretics, who denied the true passion of Christ. In Sect. 11. he warns the Magnesians "not to fall into the snares of vain glory," another apparent allusion to the Gnostics, whose very name was assumed to intimate their superiority in knowledge to other Christians.

He then shews, by the testimony of Epiphanius, Philastrius, and Augustine, that the observance of the peculiar rites of Judaism, from prudential motives, was at that period one of

the professed tenets of the Cerinthians, although Cerinthus himself did not submit to the rite of circumcision, as he taught others to do. It is thought that St. John alludes to the Cerinthians, when he speaks to the Philadelphians, respecting them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie. Rev. iii. 9. see also Rev. ii. 9. And it is remarkable that Ignatius, writing to the same Philadelphians, Sect. 6. says, "If any one preach the Jewish religion to you, hear him not. For it is better to learn the Christian faith from one who is circumcised, than the Jewish from one who is uncircumcised."

Bp. Bull then proves, by the testimony of Irenæus, iii. 11. that the Nicolaitans, Cerinthians, and other early heretics held tenets of the same absurd kind as those afterwards professed by the Valentinians, respecting various orders of Æons, between the supreme God and the Creator of the world; and shews that it is highly probable that the very procession of the Word from Sige, or Silence, was one of their notions. Gregory Nazienzen, indeed, Orat. 23. enumerates the Cerinthians among those Gnostics who reckoned Bythus and Sige in the number of their Æons.

Upon the whole we may be justified in concluding :

1. That if the words "*οὐκ ἀπὸ Στρῆνες προέλθων*" be an allusion to the opinions of Valentinus, such an allusion cannot be shown to be chronologically impossible; nor would it prove that the Epistle in which it occurs is either interpolated or fictitious.
2. That there is the highest probability that the words refer to the erroneous notions, either of the Cerinthian heretics, or of other Gnostics before Valentinus.
3. That this is a plain testimony of a writer of the Apostolic age to the absolute eternity of Jesus Christ, the Word of God.

NOTE (D.)

THE LETTERS OF THE YOUNGER PLINY, AND TRAJAN, RESPECTING THE CHRISTIANS:

Referred to in Tertullian's Apology, cap. ii. p. 287.

BOOK X. LETTER xcvi.

MELMOTH'S TRANSLATION.

PLINY TO THE EMPEROR TRAJAN.

IT is a rule, sir, which I inviolably observe, to refer myself to you in all my doubts; for, who is more capable of removing my scruples, or informing my ignorance? Having never been present at any trials concerning those persons who are Christians, I am unacquainted, not only with the nature of their crimes, or the measure of their punishment, but how far it is proper to enter into an examination concerning them. Whether, therefore, any difference is usually made with respect to the ages of the guilty, or no distinction is to be observed between the young and the adult; whether repentance entitles them to a pardon; or, if a man has been once a Christian, it avails nothing to desist from his error; whether the very profession of Christianity, unattended with any criminal act, or only the crimes themselves inherent in the profession, are punishable: in all these points I am greatly doubtful. In the mean while, the method I have observed towards those who have been brought before me as Christians, is this: I interrogated them whether they were Christians; if they confessed, I repeated the question twice, adding threats at the same time; and if they still persevered, I ordered them to be immediately punished. For, I was persuaded, whatever the nature of their opinions might be, a contumacious and inflexible obstinacy certainly deserved correction. There were others also brought before me possessed with the same infatuation; but being citi-

zens of Rome, I directed that they should be conveyed thither. But this crime spreading (as is usually the case) while it was actually under prosecution, several instances of the same nature occurred. An information was presented to me without any name subscribed, containing a charge against several persons: these, upon examination, denied they were, or ever had been, Christians. They repeated after me an invocation to the gods, and offered religious rites with wine and frankincense before your statue, (which for that purpose I had ordered to be brought, together with those of the gods,) and even reviled the name of Christ; whereas there is no forcing, it is said, those who are really Christians, into any of these compliances. I thought it proper, therefore, to discharge them. Some among those who were accused by a witness in person, at first confessed themselves Christians, but immediately after denied it; the rest owned, indeed, they had been of that number formerly, but had now (some above three, others more, and a few above twenty years ago) renounced that error. They all worshipped your statue, and the images of the gods, uttering imprecations at the same time against the name of Christ. They affirmed the whole of their guilt, or their error, was, that they met on a certain stated day before it was light, and addressed themselves in a form of prayer to Christ, as to some god, binding themselves by a solemn oath, not for the purposes of any wicked design, but never to commit any fraud, theft, or adultery; never to falsify their word, nor deny a trust when they should be called upon to deliver it up; after which, it was their custom to separate, and then re-assemble, to eat in common a harmless meal. From this custom, however, they desisted after the publication of my edict, by which, according to your commands, I forbade the meeting of any assemblies. In consequence of this their declaration, I judged it the more necessary to endeavour to extort the real truth, by putting two female slaves^a to the torture, who were said to officiate in their religious functions; but all I could discover was, that these people were actuated by an absurd and excessive superstition. I deemed it expedient, therefore, to adjourn all farther proceedings, in order to consult you. For, it appears to be a matter highly deserving your consideration; more especially as great numbers must be involved in the danger of these

^a Two of the deaconesses. See note u. p. 129.

prosecutions, which have already extended, and are still likely to extend, to persons of all ranks and ages, and even of both sexes. In fact, this contagious superstition is not confined to the cities only, but has spread its infection among the neighbouring villages and country. Nevertheless, it still seems possible to restrain its progress. The temples, at least, which were once almost deserted, begin now to be frequented; and the sacred solemnities, after a long intermission, are revived; to which I must add, there is again also a general demand for the victims, which for some time past had met with but few purchasers. From the circumstances I have mentioned, it is easy to conjecture what numbers might be reclaimed, if a general pardon were granted to those who shall repent of their error.

TRAJAN TO PLINY.

THE method you have pursued, my dear Pliny, in the proceedings against those Christians which were brought before you, is extremely proper; as it is not possible to lay down any fixed rule by which to act in all cases of this nature. But I would not have you *officially* enter into any enquiries concerning them. If indeed they should be brought before you, and the crime should be proved, they must be punished; with this restriction, however, that where the party denies he is a Christian, and shall make it evident that he is not, by invoking our gods; let him (notwithstanding any former suspicion) be pardoned upon his repentance. Informations without the accuser's name subscribed, ought not to be received in prosecutions of any sort; as it is introducing a very dangerous precedent, and by no means agreeable to the equity of my government.
